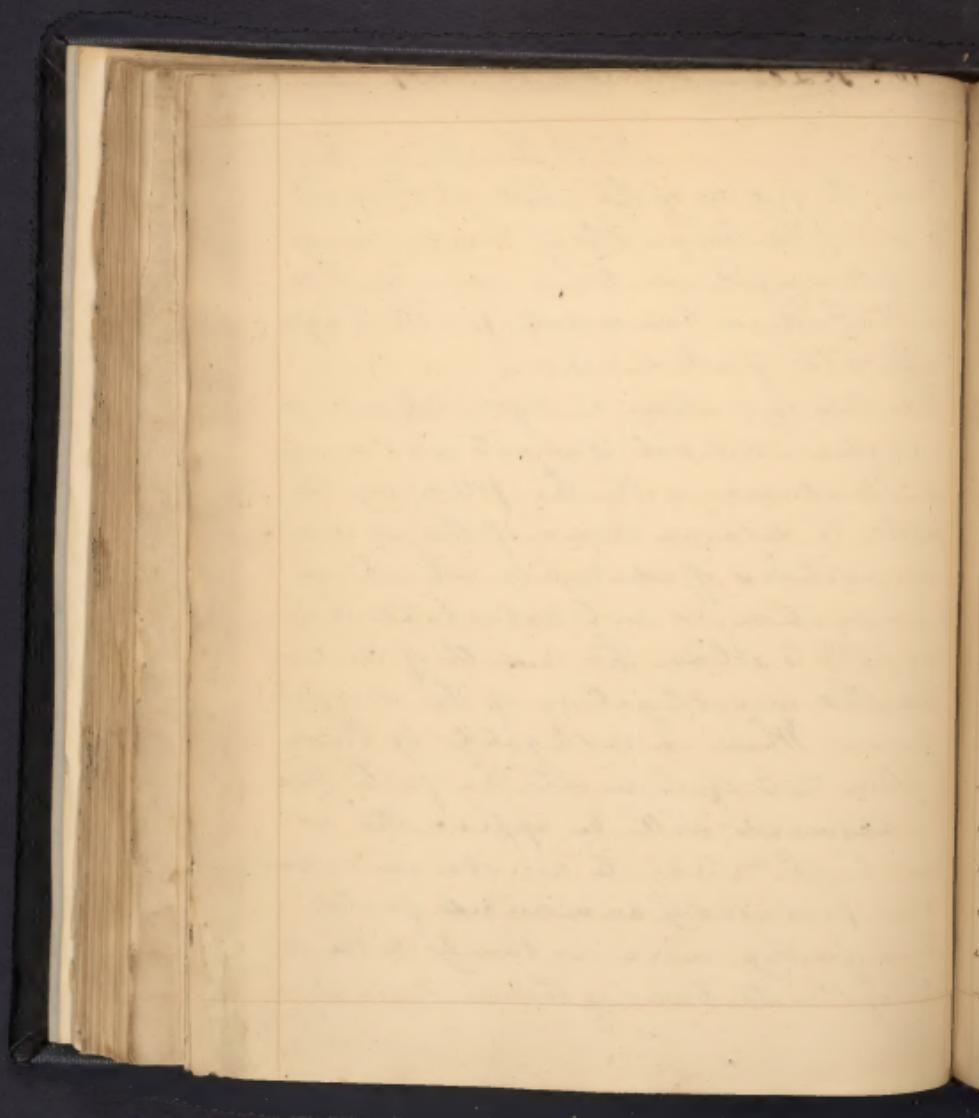


W. F. Lee - ~~and his motion of~~ ^{and his} ~~and his~~

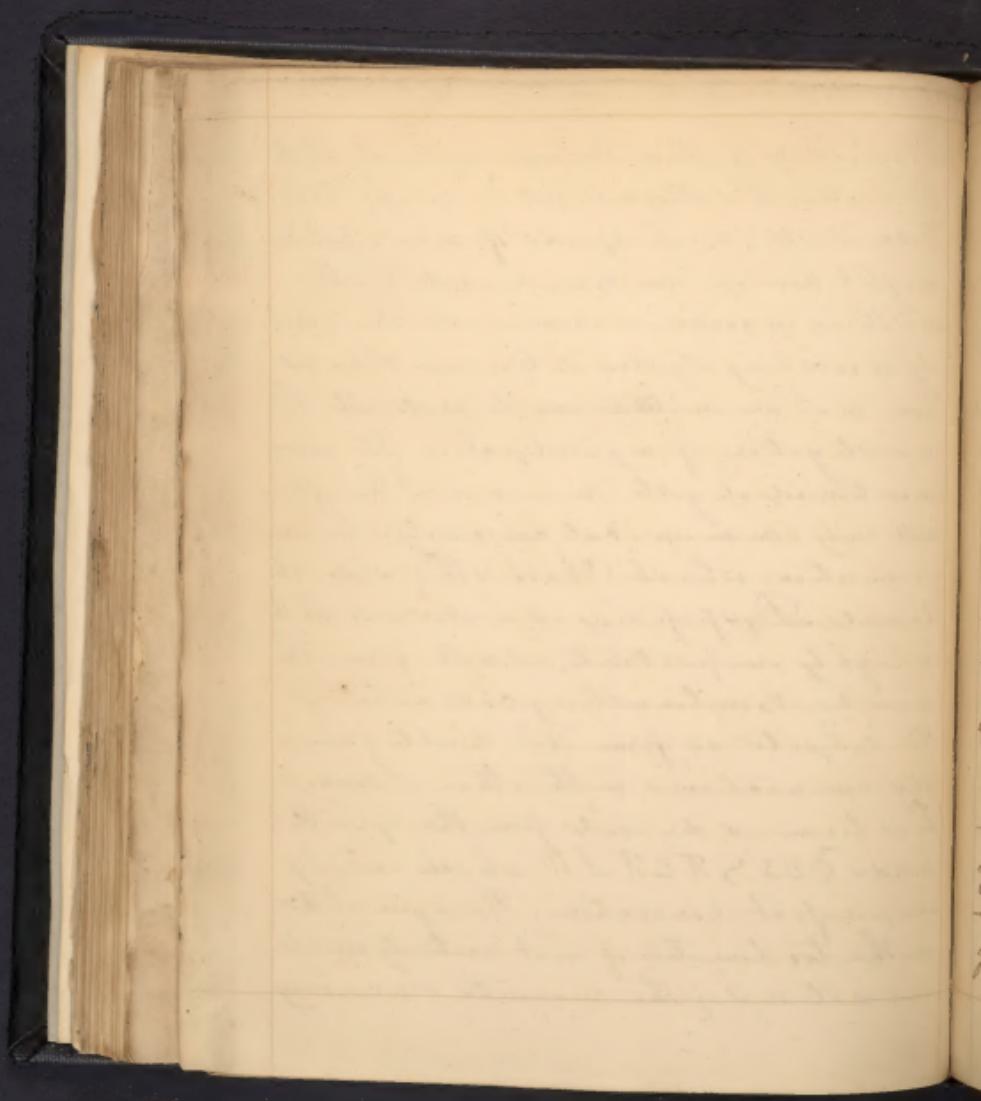
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To the Professors of the Medical Departments of the University of Pennsylvania
the following Dissertation is Submitted,
by Wm F. Lee, a Candidate for the Degree
of Doctor of Medicine.

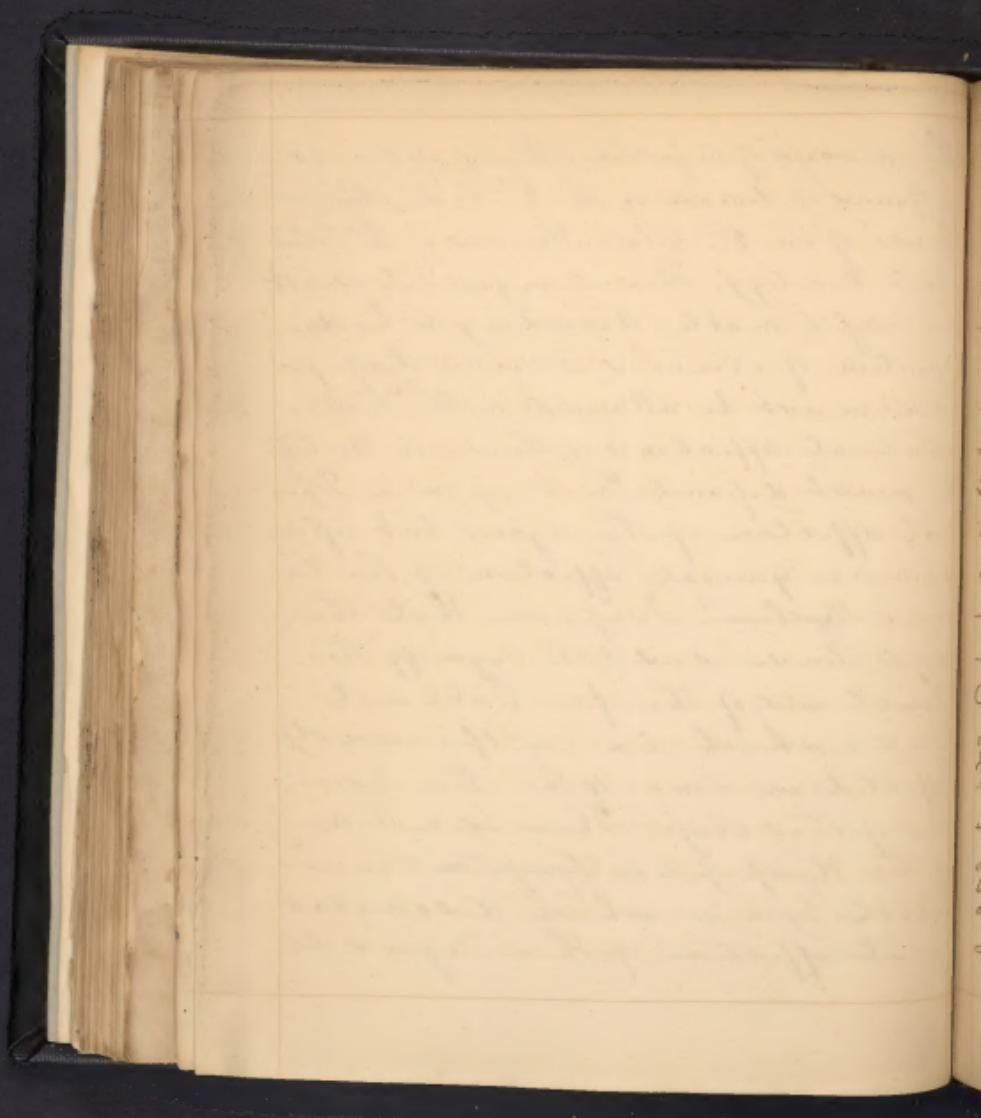
The duty of writing a dissertation upon some Medical Subject was enjoined I presume with the following object: to discover some of the minor acquisitions of education which an examination is not calculated to develop & to obtain the results of the candidate's investigation of the Subject chosen. When investigated by Observation & Experiment, the facts thereby acquired, will be appreciated as they might serve to corroborate or weaken previously announced facts: thus giving more certainty to the only legitimate bases of theories viz. well



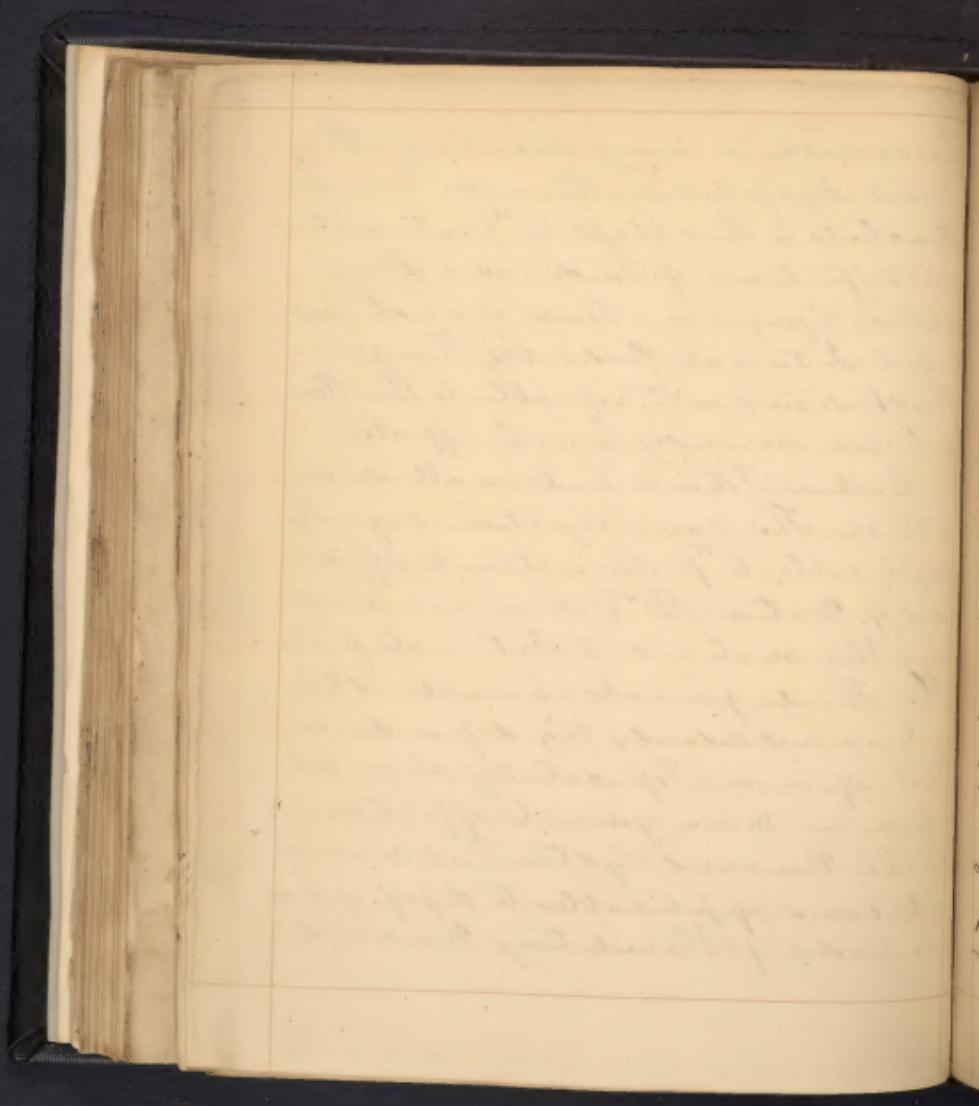
established truths. Besides exposing what Dr. Cullen has stigmatized by the epithet "False Facts", such species of investigation might develop new & unobserved truths and thus increase or diminish the validity of existing Systems. Circumstances have not permitted me to prosecute the investigation of my subject in the above mentioned eligible manner. I therefore will only communicate concisely, the information which I have otherwise obtained. Dyspepsia is a disease which is highly important, as well from the number & interesting character of its subjects as from its multi-formous connections with other diseases. This term is derived from the Greek words ΔΥΣ & ΠΕΠΤΩ, which imply imperfect concoction. It originated in the too limited if not entirely erroneous notions of the ancients concerning



the process of digestion. Dyspepsia is a Genus of disease of the 2nd Order, Aldyna-
miae, of the 2nd Class, Neuroses of Dr. Cul-
lum's Nosology. This arrangement is not
unscriptable. According to his de-
finition of Nervous Diseases dyspep-
sia must be attended with ^{the} other
nervous affections of Sense or Motion
or must depend, not up on a Topi-
cal affection of the organs but upon
a more general affection of the Ne-
rvous System. I suppose that the
word Sense is used to signify the
functions of the five External
Senses, which are conspicuously
affected in some of the other dis-
eases of this class. There is not one
of the dyspeptic symptoms enumerated
by him which discards a
great affection of these organs at

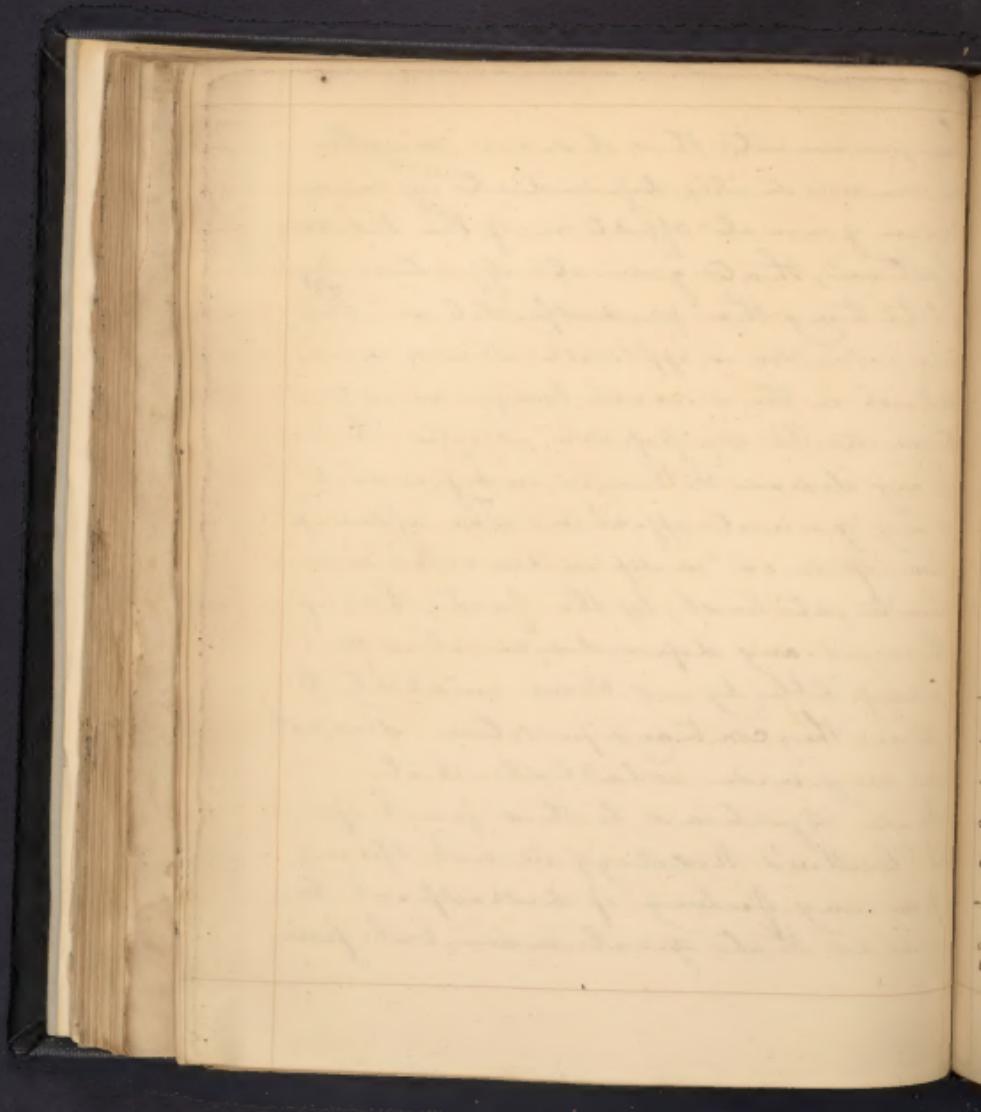


is observable in many diseases of other
classes. Dyspepsia therefore does not
attach itself to this class by "Preternatu-
ral Affection of Sens-^z" as a Diag-
nostic Symptom. Some of what are
called Internal Sens-^z viz Hunger
Thirst, Nausea &c, referable to the Stom-
ach are obviously much affected.
Dr Cullen I think has no allusion
to these. The same objection is equally
applicable to "Preternatural Affection
of Motion", Dr Cullen not mean-
ing the motions of Internal parts.
The Third general characteristic
of Nervous diseases viz. dependence
not upon a Topical affection, but
upon a more general affection
of the Nervous System, is not in
all cases applicable to dyspepsia.
In cases of Hereditary Nervous

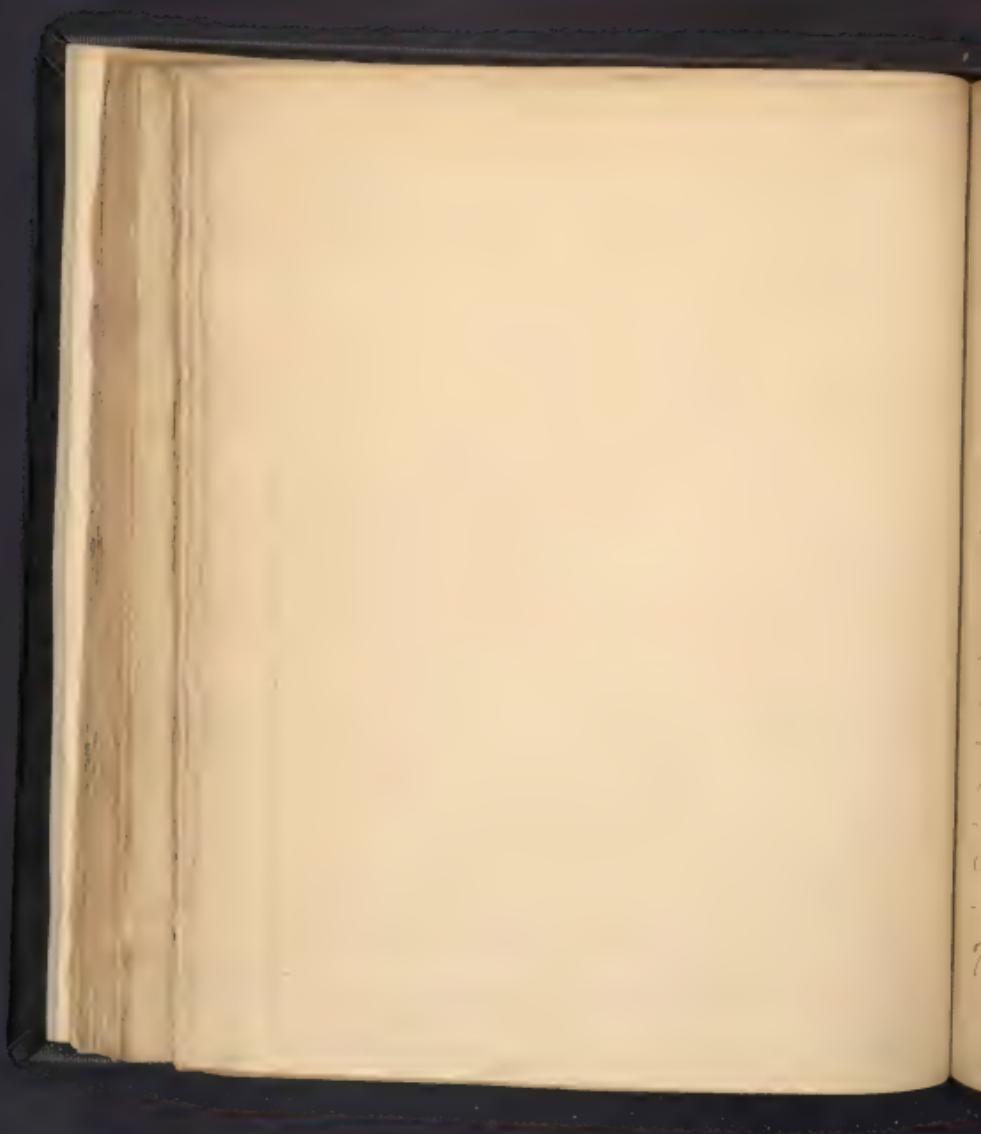


Temperament, this disease might be moderately dependent upon, a more general affection of the Nervous System, that general affection constituting the predisposition. This characteristic is applicable to such cases, but, where the Nervous temperament is affected, the dyspepsia is often the primary disease & then is independent of any general affection. The assumption of such independence is warranted, at least, by the fact, that if there is any dependence it is not perceptible by us & our inability to prove the contrary position does not in any wise establish that.

These objections to this part of Dr. Cullen's Nosology do not spring from any feeling of disrespect towards that great man, but from

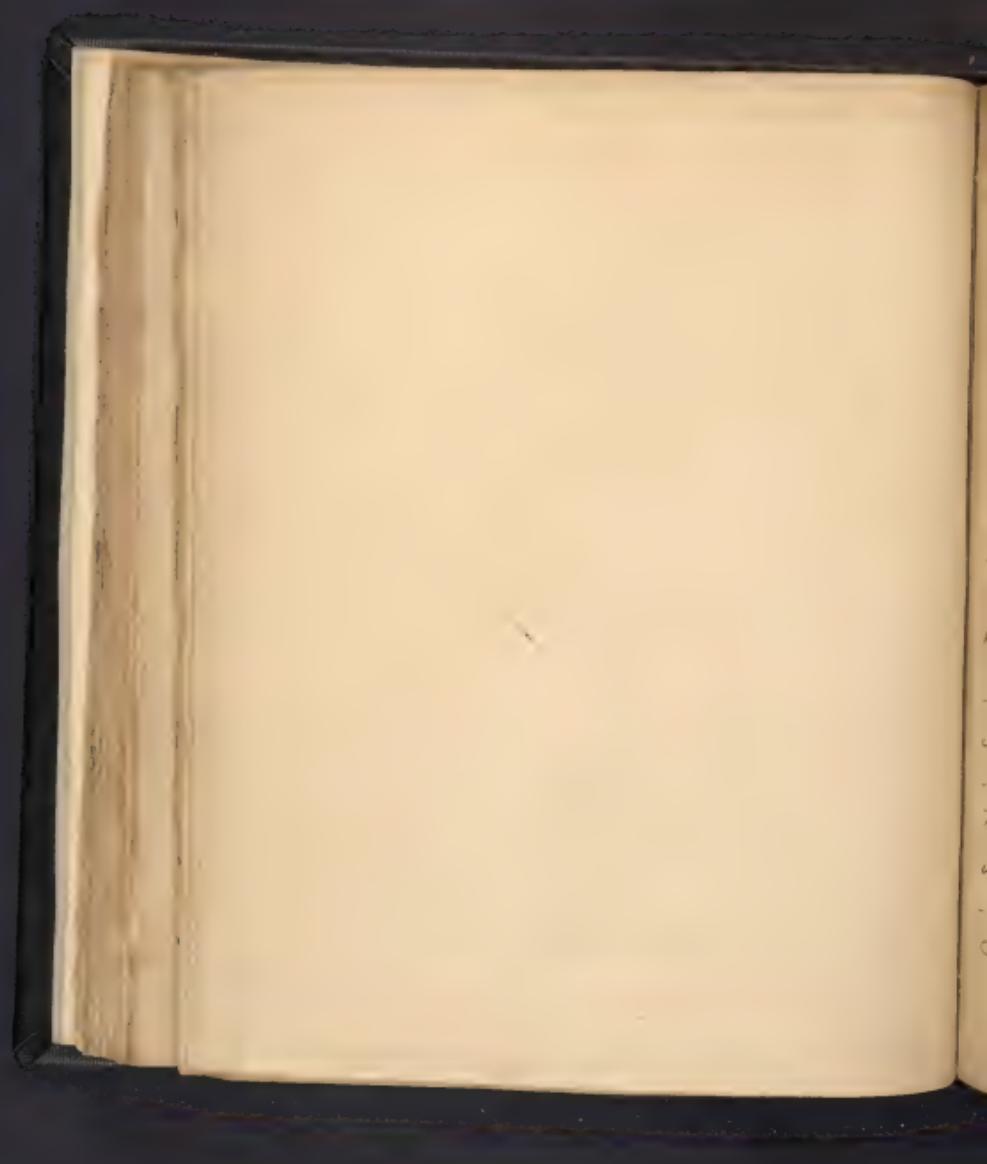


a greater attachment to truth than
to authority. He has diligently laboured
in the field of science & his labour
has yielded much fruit to discrimi-
nating physicians, who are not
so dazzled by the splendour of
some truths as not to notice con-
stant errors. Dyspepsia is
a disease of the Digestive Sys-
tem, & has been divided in to Sym-
ptomatic & Idiopathic. In the first
the disease is connect with and is
dependt upon a diseas'd con-
dition of some part or parts
other than the Alimentary Canal,
as the Liver, Spleen, Pancreas &c.
In the second there is no such
connection & dependence primar-
ily, tho' the long continuance
of the disease might produce

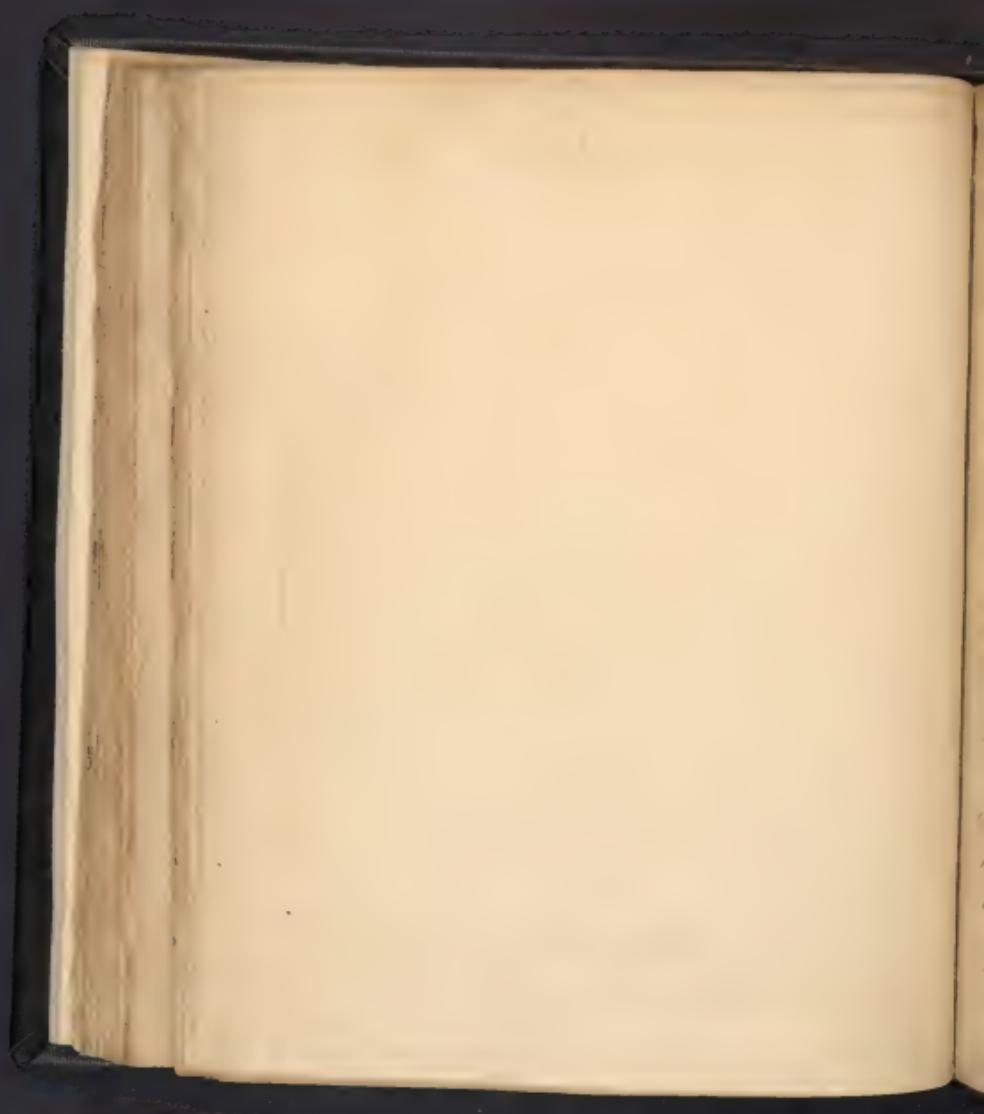


such connection in the disease.

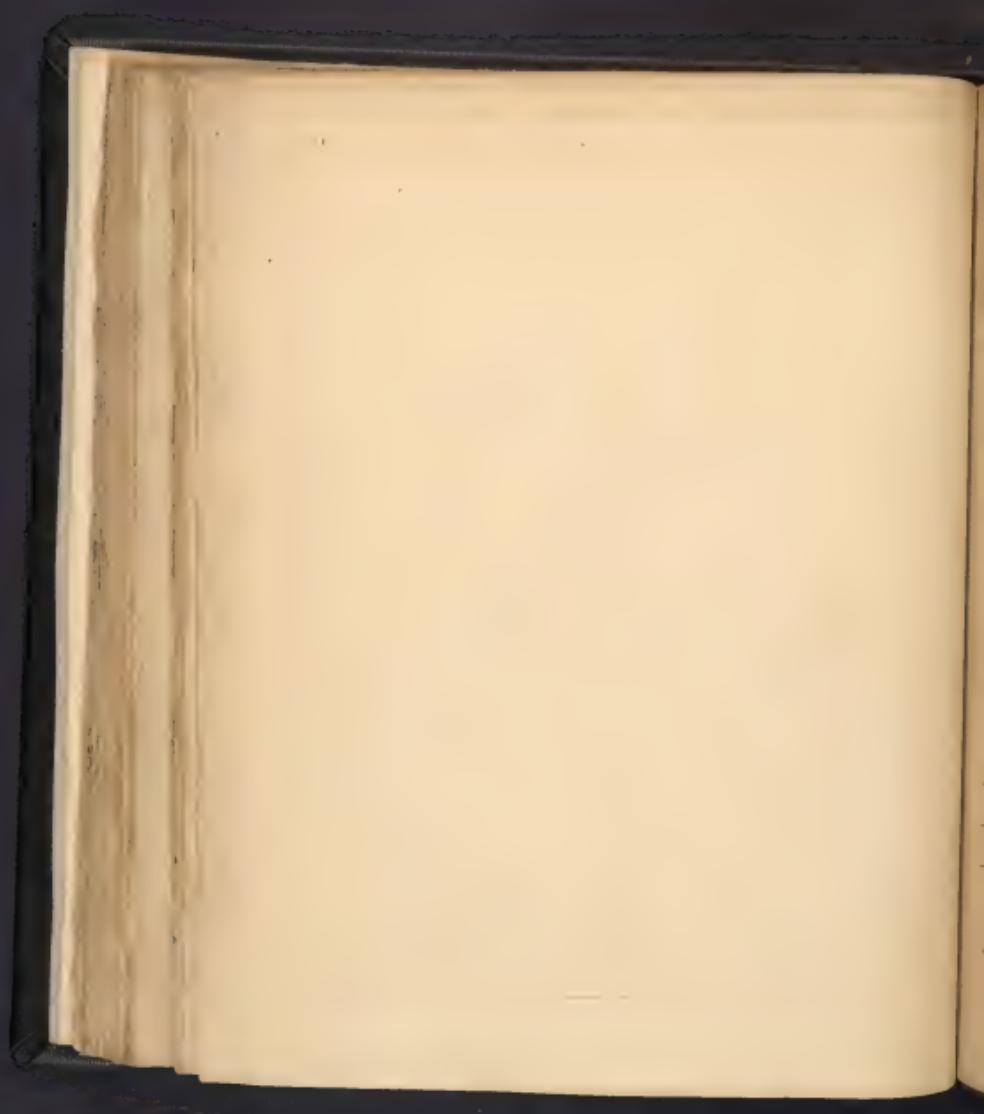
The Symptoms of this disease vary according to the extent the character of the part to be implicated. I will first enumerate those which designate the most simple form of Dyspepsia & afterwards will mention some, which are anomalous & characterize others of a more complicated form. Of the first are, Nausea, Vomiting, Sour Eructations, Cardialgia, Gastralgia, Gnawing irritation at the Stomach especially when it is empty, Giddiness, Constipation, Paleness of the whole surface of the body, diminished appetite, small & Chorded Pulse. Of the second are, distended Vessels in the various diseases of the organs of that kind. Pulse



lation of the Heart, dimmed candle or
of the Moon or Star, the urine being
sometimes milky or saochine. The Stool
is often one of a clay & white colour.
The appearance of the Tongue is gene-
rally unhealthy. A sense of oppression
after meals. An uneasy sensation
sometimes obscure pain in the Skin
of the back between the Scapulae.
Great Drawings, dependent upon
Constipation. Anxiety about the
precordia. The above are some of
the symptoms which serve to es-
tablish the existence of dyspepsia.
An enumeration of all the Sym-
ptoms which indicate disorder of
the digestive apparatus would
involve a partial history of ma-
ny diseases.
From the situation of the parts

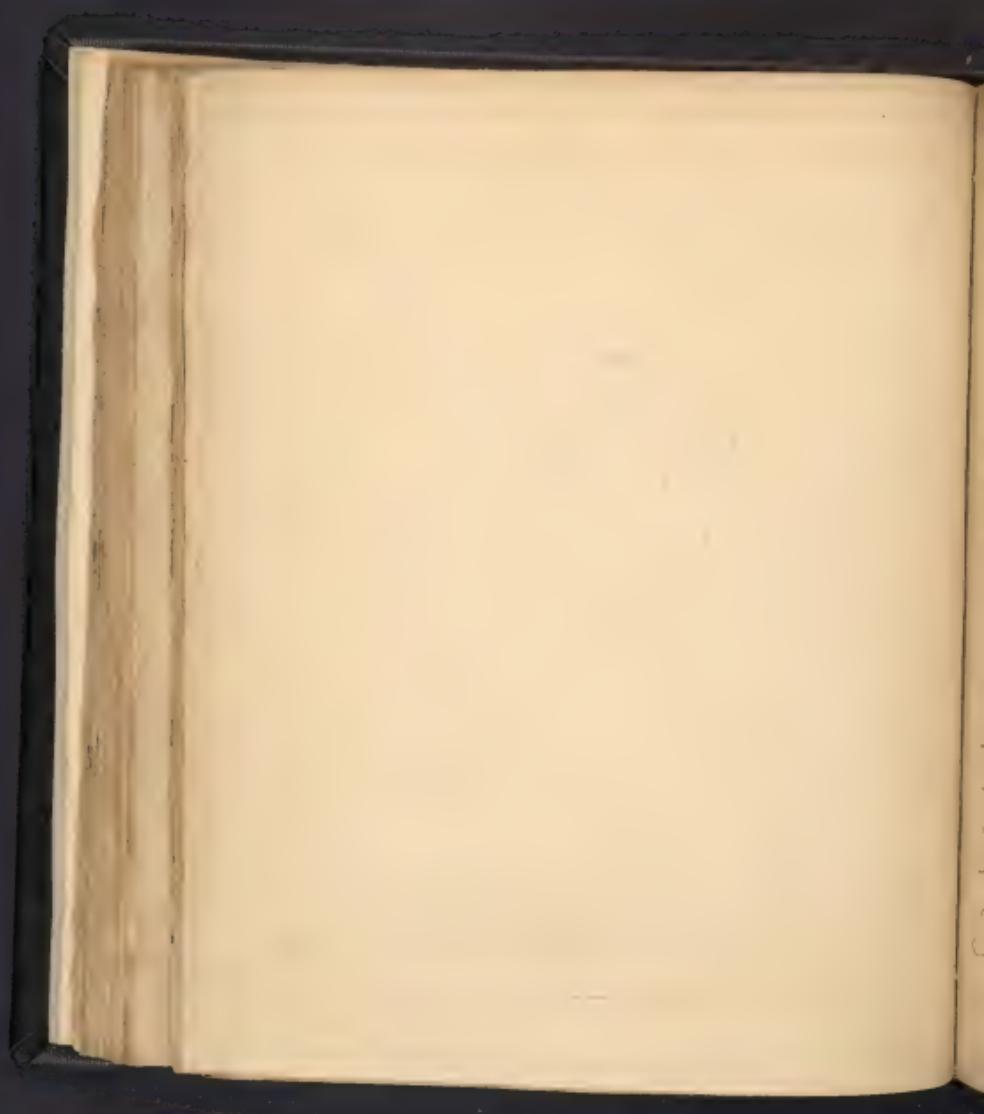


concerned with the chronic con-
troachment of the disease it is
difficult to recognize the variate
from healthy action. This dif-
ficulty is greatly augmented by
the uncertainty respecting the na-
ture of that healthy action
It has been tried by various
authors, Hentz, Fournier, Mu-
nster Action, Solution to Galvan
ic action, especially a various
by en-jointe have been consider-
ed chiefly in strumulation they
propos. Some of these agents cer-
tainly are concerned to have great
influence in the proposit, but
I am not prepared to assign to
them their respective degree of
importance. That they do not
affect the proposit independent

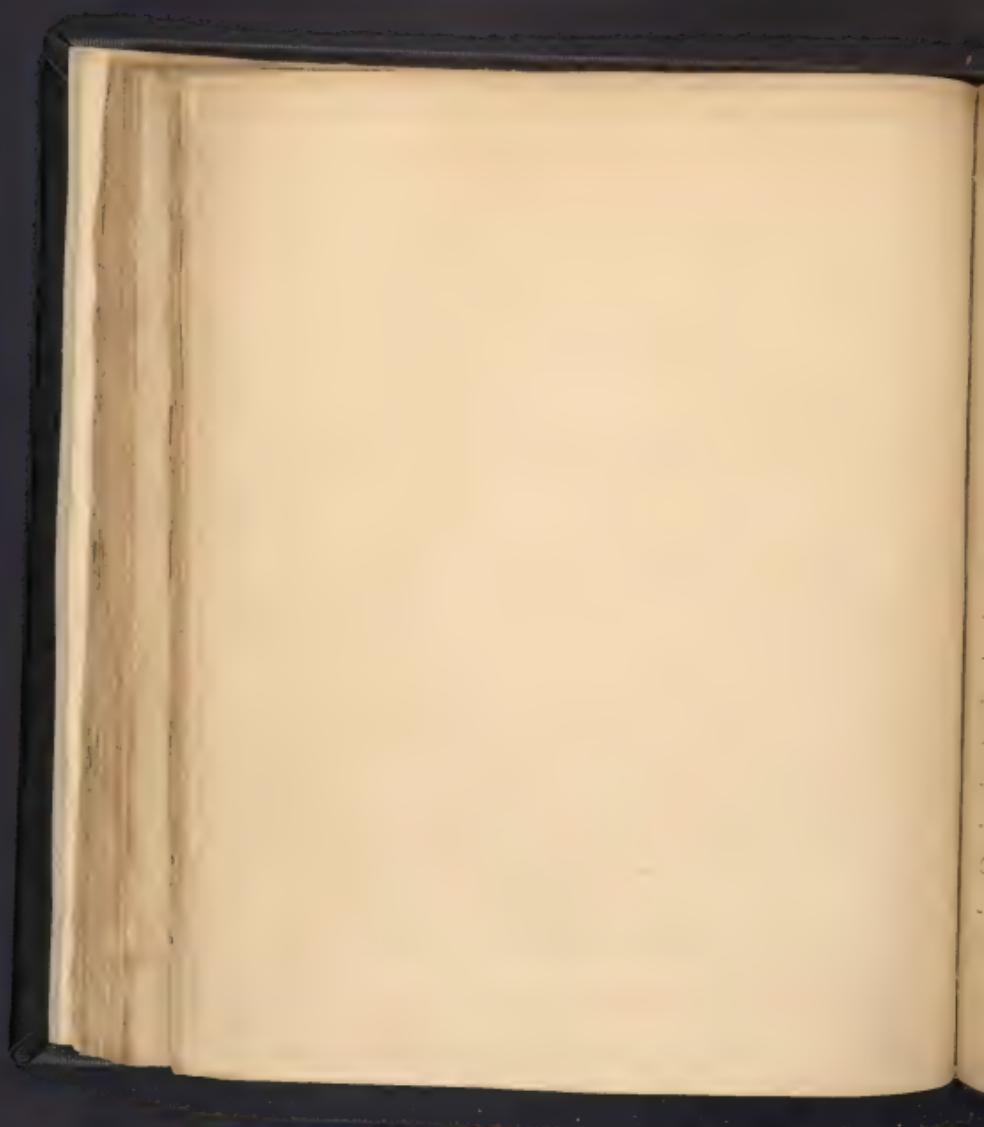


ly to exclusively is given by their in-
fluence to elaborate chyle under
the most favourable circumstan-
ces, the influence of Vitality be-
ing wanting. I will therefore con-
sider those which exert any agency
as Sub-agents, acting under
the controul to modification of
that vital principle. Perhaps
too little influence is at present
ascribed to Muscular Action.

It is not to its communing
operation that I allude. The pas-
sage through the Stomach of
soft substances at Gastric Fun-
alters, shows that its operati-
on in that way is not uncom-
mendable. But it is adjuvant-
thus: it contracts the Stomach
upon its content, thereby ma-



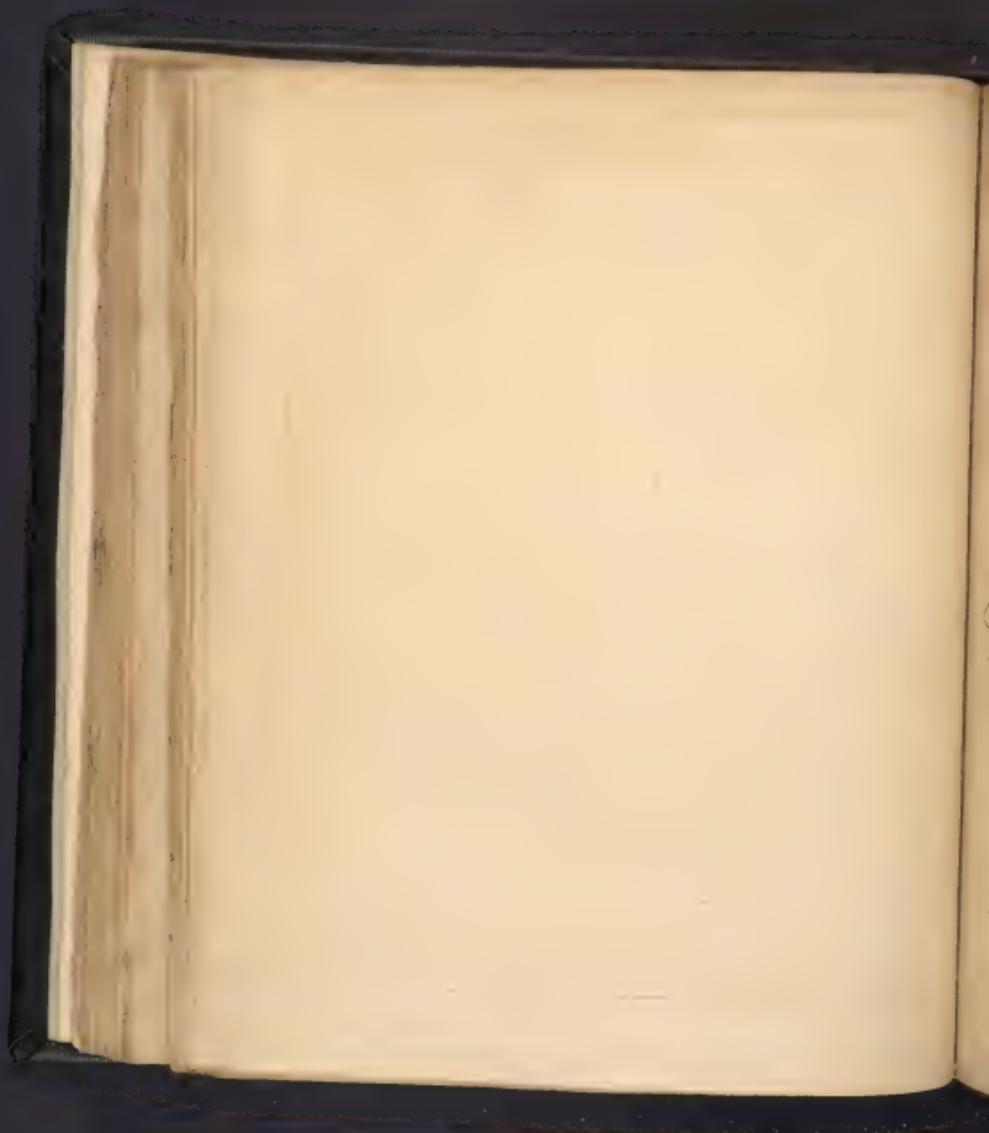
king the air, n, far from those
contractions of the gut. It is far the
more important by propelling the
Chyme thro' the Pylorus. How
far the Nerves of the Stomach
are concerned I know not, but
the theoretical notion ascribing to
them considerable influence.
The agency of the Hepatic System
in digestion is very material.
The Bile gently stimulates the
Intestines, to a due, & resistless
motion. This is increased from
the diminution of that move-
ment when the ordinary quantity
of that fluid is not passed
into the intestines, as in Jaun-
dice. It has been supposed to aid
also in the Separation of the
Fæces from the Chyle; it is even



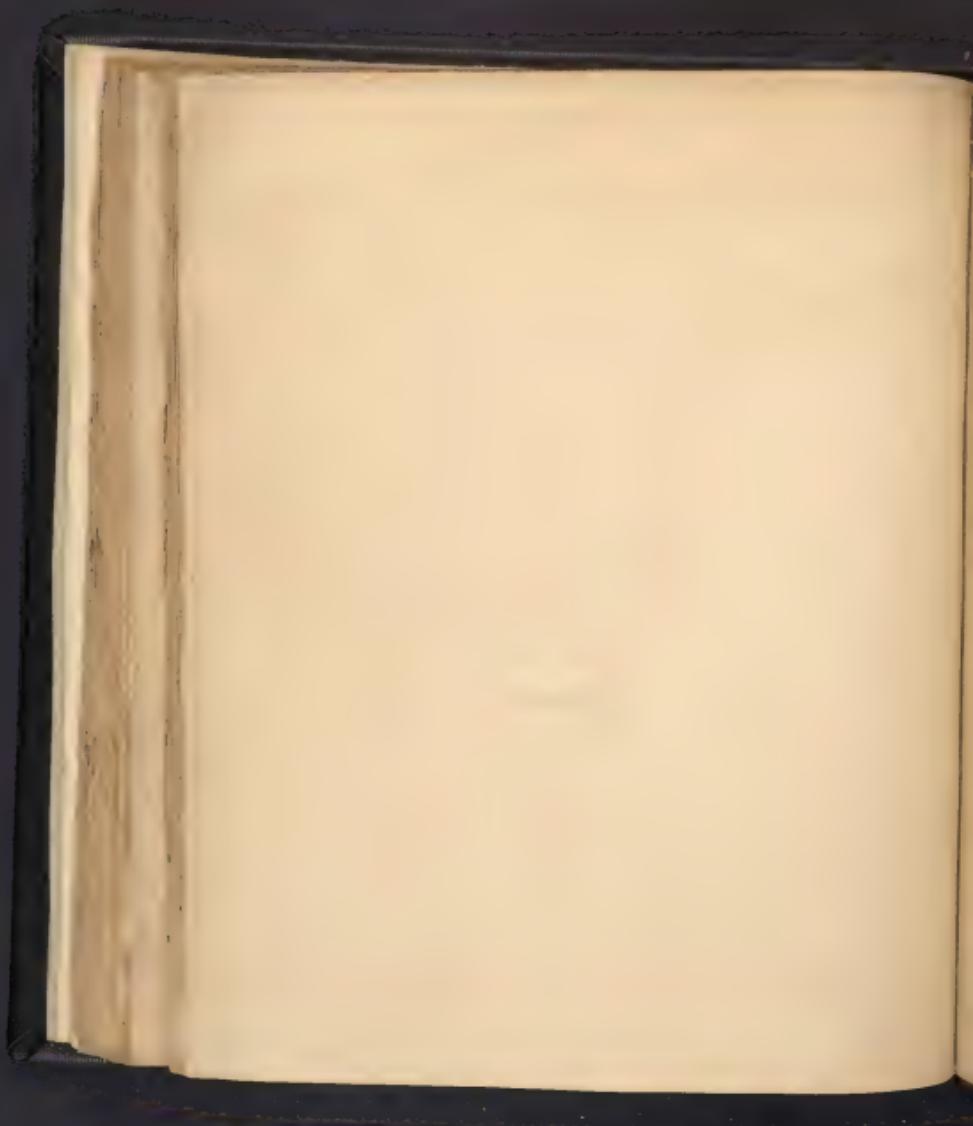
ous part uniting with the former.
It's agrees with the latter.

I have said thus much concerning
this digestion that some obser-
vation in relation to the Pa-
thology of Dyspepsia might
be more easily introduced.

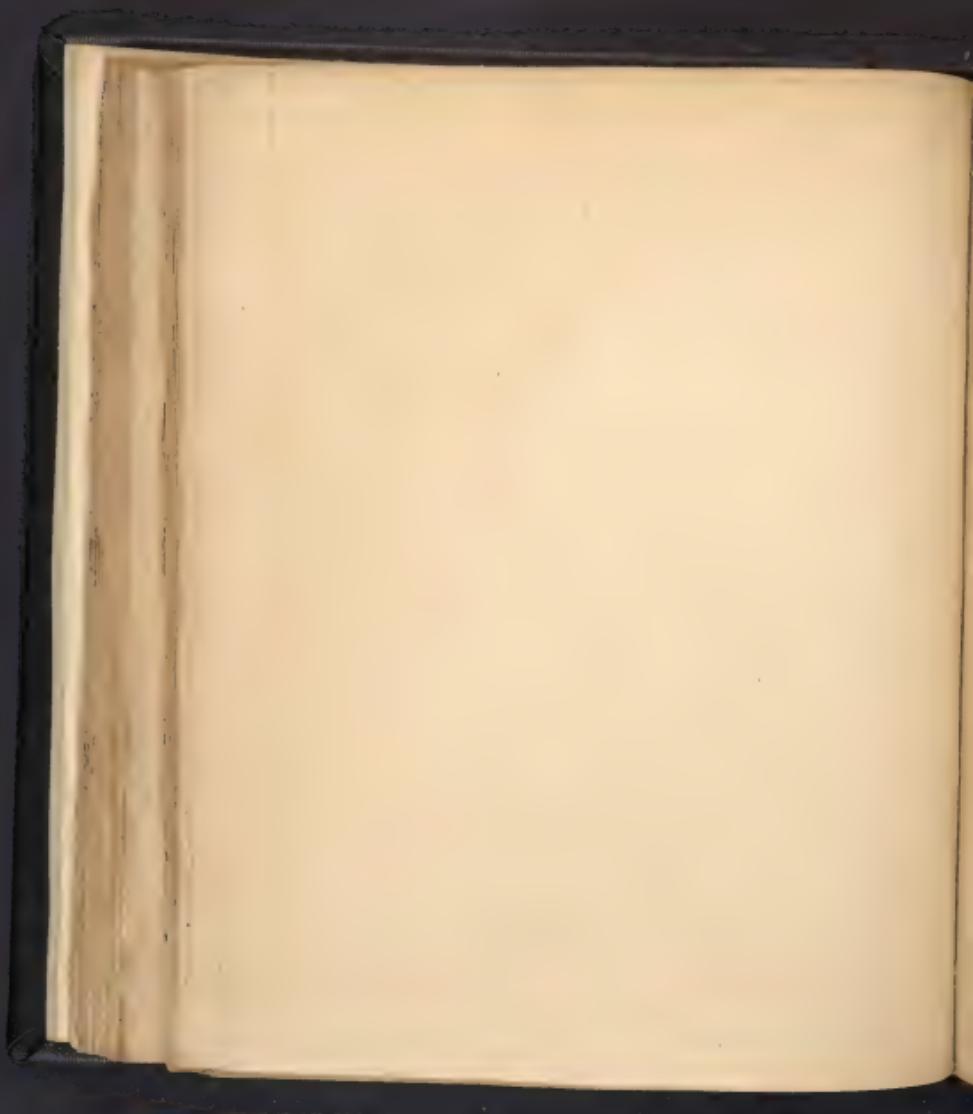
I am unable to detail the pa-
thological views of the various
authors who have written upon
the subject to perhaps the in-
conclusion of their inves-
tigations render it unnecessary.
In Dyspepsia the se-
cretory functions of the Stom-
ach are disordered. & hence
they has said that when a
secretory organ is much in-
tiated, the secretory process of
that organ is disordered.



Confiding in the truth of this prin-
ciple & also considering it as
a legitimate assumption that
there frequently is great Irrita-
tion of the Stomach (amounting
sometime to Spasms) the disor-
der of its Secretory Functions
is a plain a Posteriori infer-
ence. This view is corroborated
by the following circumstances.
In Pyrosis, the Exhalants
which probably secrete the Gas-
tric Juice pour out a fluid
different from Gastric Juice.
The secretion of Mucus is also disor-
dered, as is evinced by the Sponta-
neous or Artificial vomiting of a
pulmonary naturally large quantity of
that fluid. Might not a super-
abundance of Mucus, by lessing

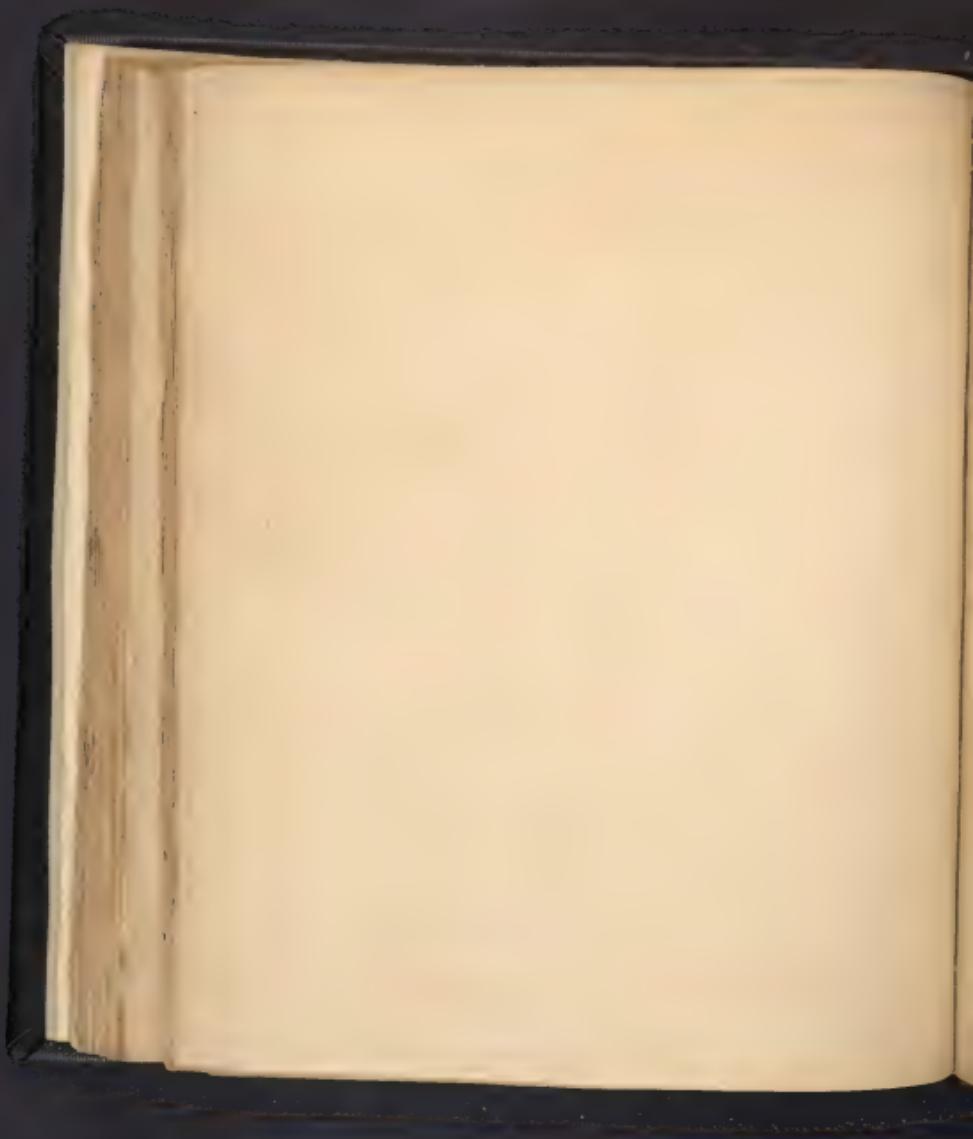


the internal Surface of the Stomach present the effusion of Gastro-intestinal into the cavity of that organ & able prevent injesta making an effluent impression on the Nerves of the Stomach. That the Nerves of the Stomach are implicated in the disorder of that organ is highly probable. The sensation of oppression after eating denotes an alteration in the condition of those Nervs. If they can turn over & digest which in health do not produce any unpleasant sensation but in the contrary pleasure, would not be followed by that oppression. The property too of adapting to the Sensibility of the Stomach the quantity & quality of the Ali-



ment which shows an alteration
in the nervous condition of that
organ. Considering the Nerves
the organ of Sympathy, we must
infer from their disorder a coexisting
or preceding disorder in the Sympa-
thetic relations of the Stomach.
That such is the case is rendered prob-
able by certain symptoms.

The violence in the Stomach & re-
sult is very evident. This appears to
be the result of the actions performed
upon the food. It indicates a
diminution in the energy of Vitali-
ty: the vibration of that principle
& that of all Chemical powers be-
ing in an inverse ratio to each
other. The Secretion of Bile is af-
fected. This is deducible from the
slight red colour of the Stools, pre-



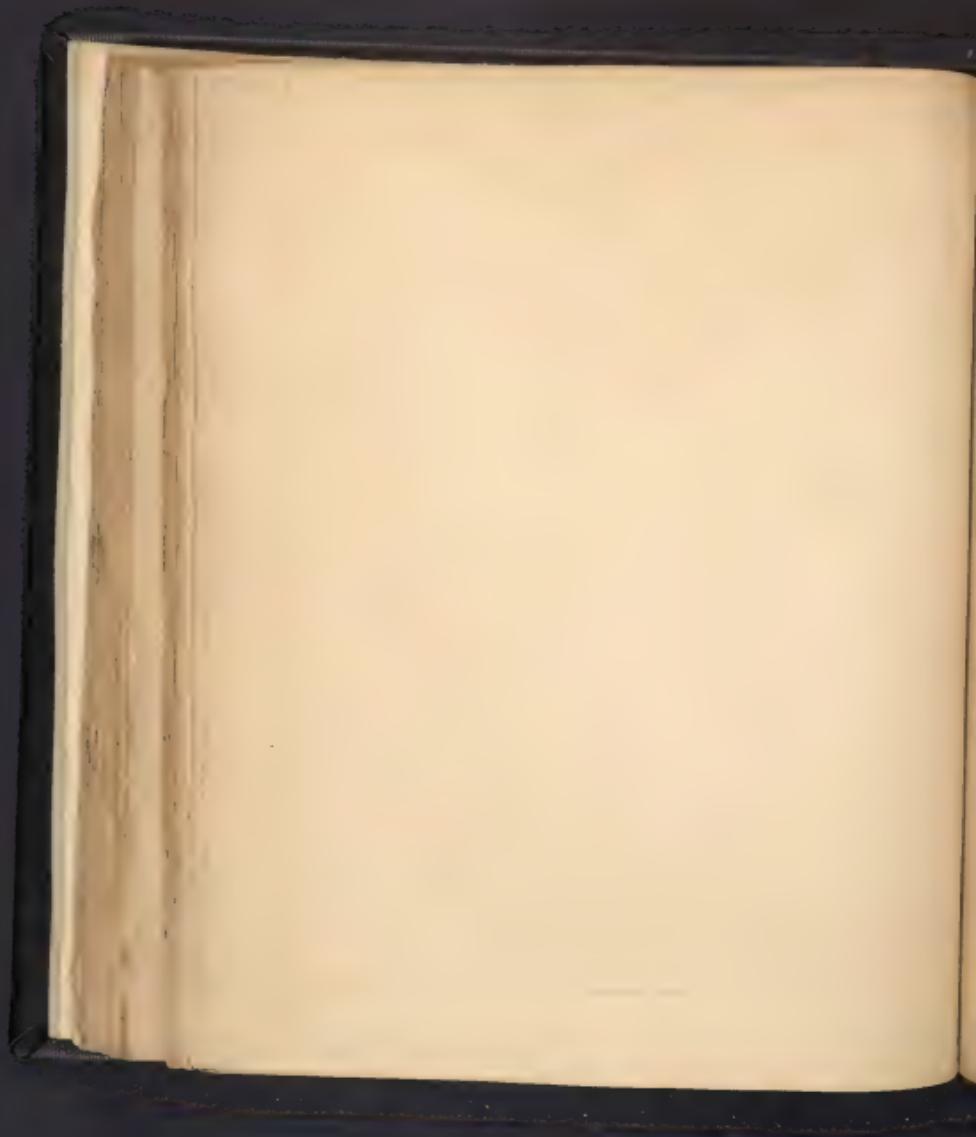
assuming that the healthy aspect
of the feces is dependent upon
their admixture with bile. The
Torpid State of the Bowels also
tends to substantiate this affump-
tion. The affection of this section
is rendered further probable by the
consideration that "a Costive State
is generally attended with a slow
circulation in the veins belong-
ing to the Hepatic System". Fa-
ces accumulated in large quantity
in the intestines, press upon the
veins of the Mesentery which go
to form the Vena Portaria and
thus diminish or retard the af-
flux of blood to the Liver. The Blood
being thus deprived of stimulus,
will diminish or retardation
of it must diminish the heat-



thy excitement into & thereby the heat
thy excretion of the disease.

Examination, post mortem, has
not thrown much light upon
the pathology of this disease.
This is in part owing to the cir-
cumstance that few dyspep-
ticos die of this disease but of
some ^{other} disorder.

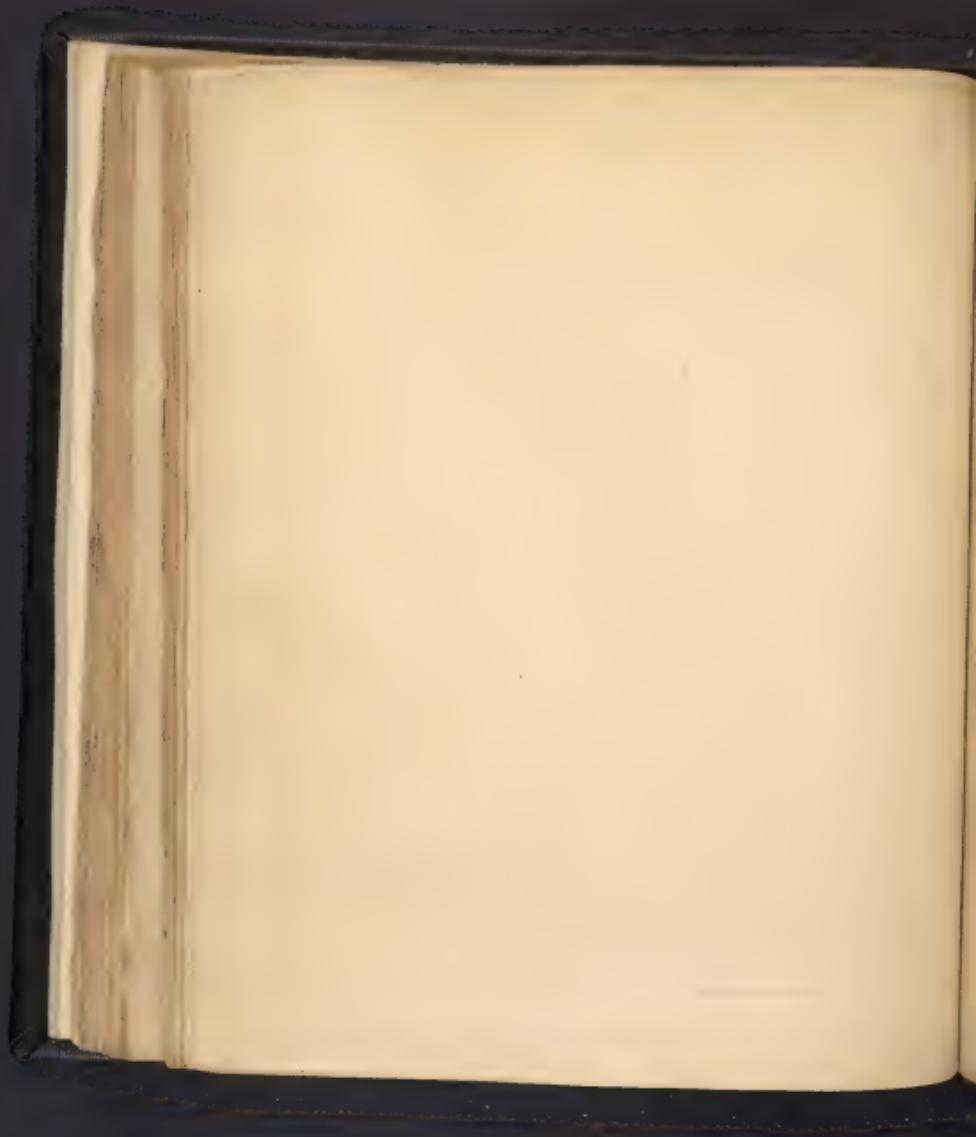
Of the Remote causes of Dyspepsia
there are two classes viz one which
operates immediately upon the stomach
or viscera, whose operation is medi-
ate, thro' the intermission of some
other part, or of the whole of the
system. Of the first are, Inordinate
or unnatural Irritation, occasion-
ed by the improper use of Meat
& Drink, either as regards their
quantity, quality, or the time by when



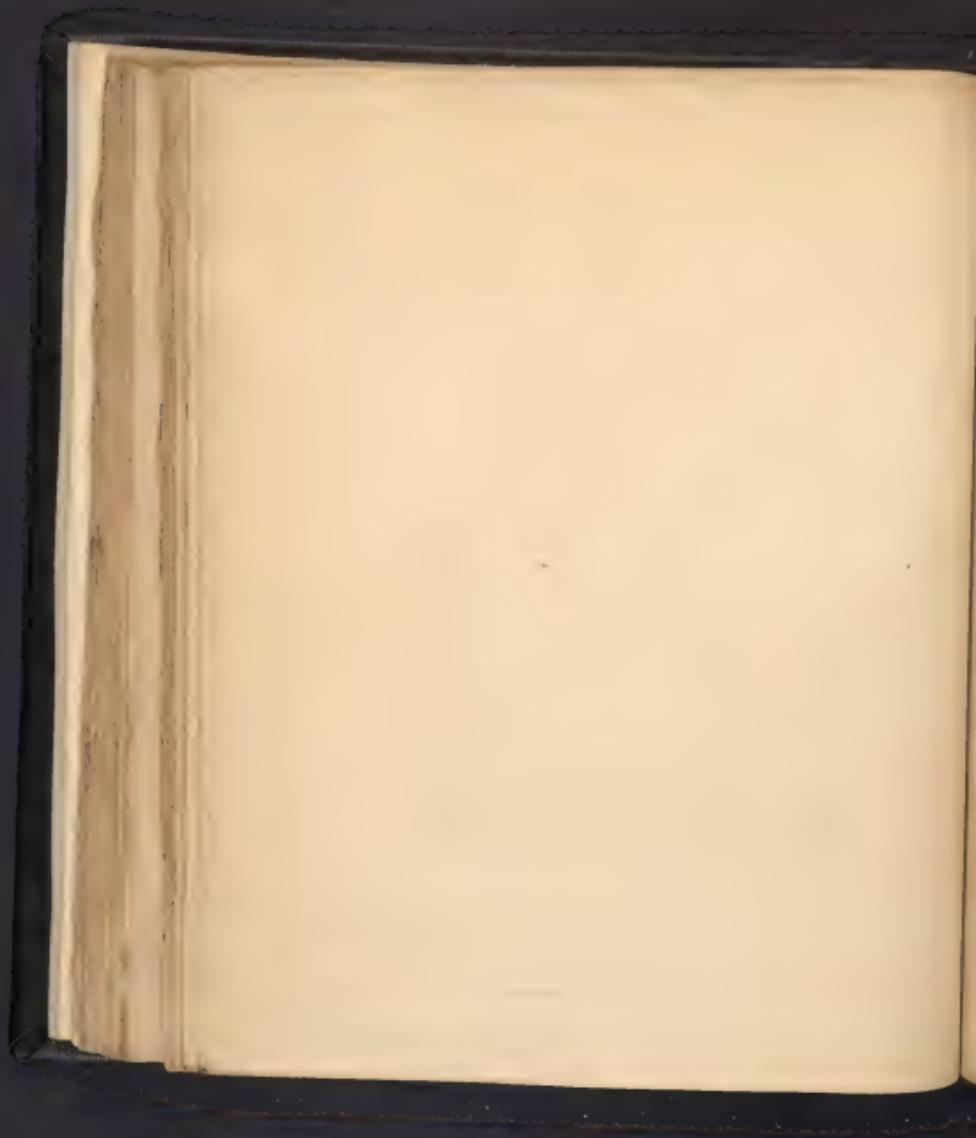
The improper use of Medicines, especially Emetics & cathartics: the taking in of bad Tea, Coffee, Tobacco and Opium. Almost all diseases which materially affect the Systems.

Of the other class of causes I will enumerate, Indolent & Sedentary living. Except an employment of the Mind or Body. Except in Fevers and Malaria labor. Great recklessness without unusual gratification. Great irritation of certain parts with which the Stomach closely sympathises, as Malaria also irritation from the climate. Exposure to moist & cold air without at the same time using exercise. Improper Clothing.

In the Treatments of Lysipheas there are Two Indications viz as



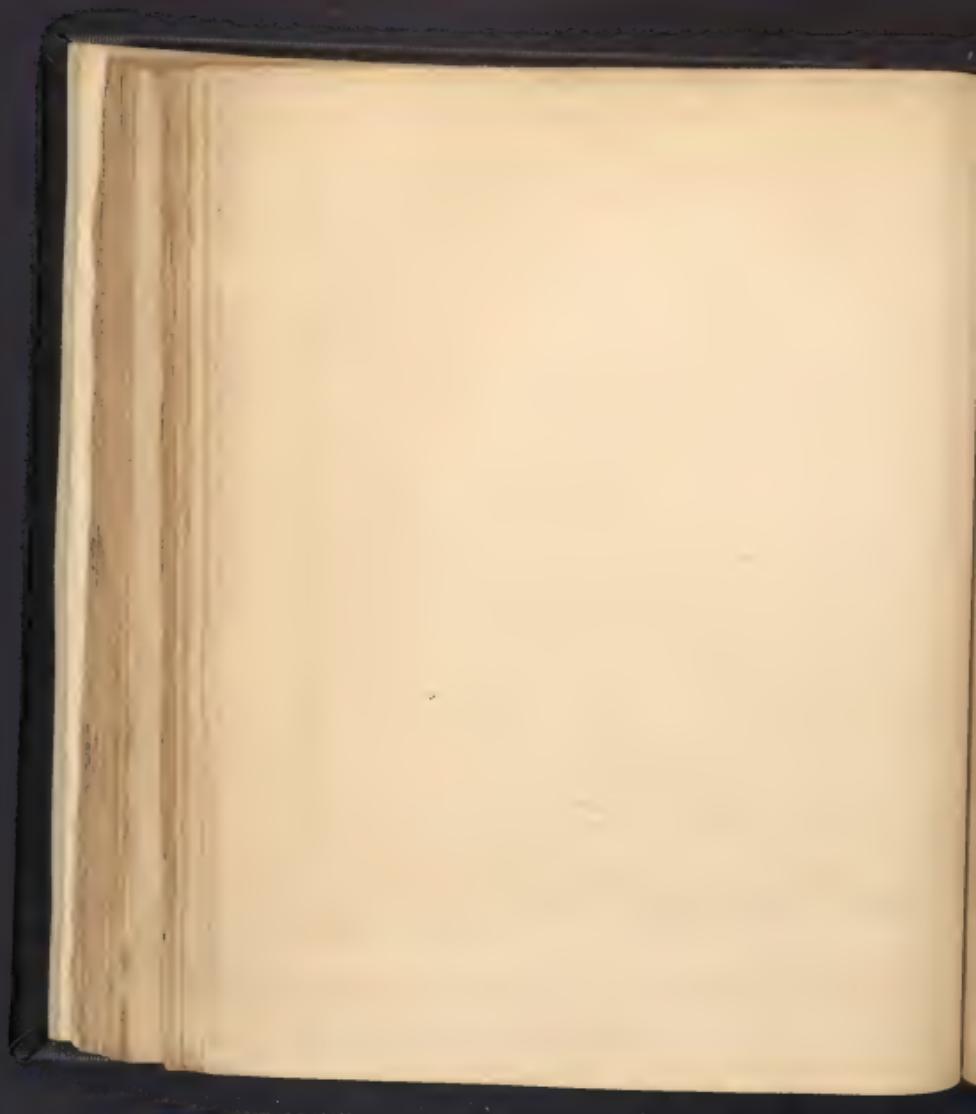
palliative to a curative. The first
is to be accomplished by mela-
gating or lessening certain Symp-
toms which greatly aggravate the
disease (of which indeed they form
a part) to distress the patient.
They are Costiveness, &c. &c. &c.
The means of combating the first
should vary with the variety of
the causes of that Symptom.
As this Symptom constitutes a
very prominent feature in dys-
pepsias, I will enumerate some
of its alleged causes. They are;
General Debility extending to the muscular
fibers of the body. Diminished secre-
tion of Bile. Too great rigidity of the mus-
cular fibers of the bowels. Too great
action of the Absorbents particularly
those of the left portion of the Stom



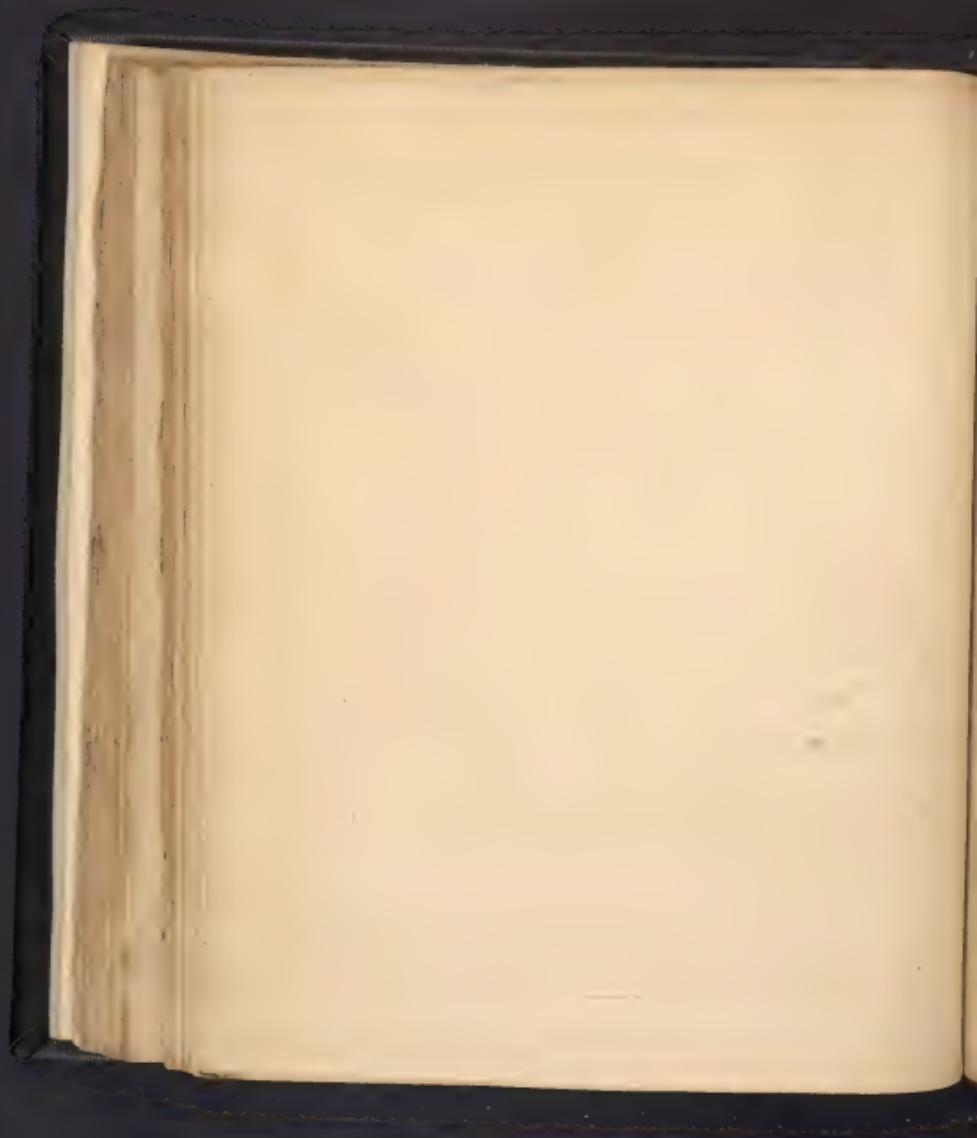
ach) whereby the faeces are left in a state of great dryness & therefore are with difficulty propell'd downwards. It is said to be caused also by an enlargement of the glands of the rectum, which lie in the submucous coat & obliterates its cavity. It may be caused by a thickening of the intestines. It may also be caused by an enlargement of the cells of the large intestines, consequent to the too long retention of the faeces: the enlarged cells retaining the faeces which operate as a reservoir of matter producing in time & consequent debility.

It is evident that constipation will require a treatment which must vary with its cause.

This treatment might be arran-

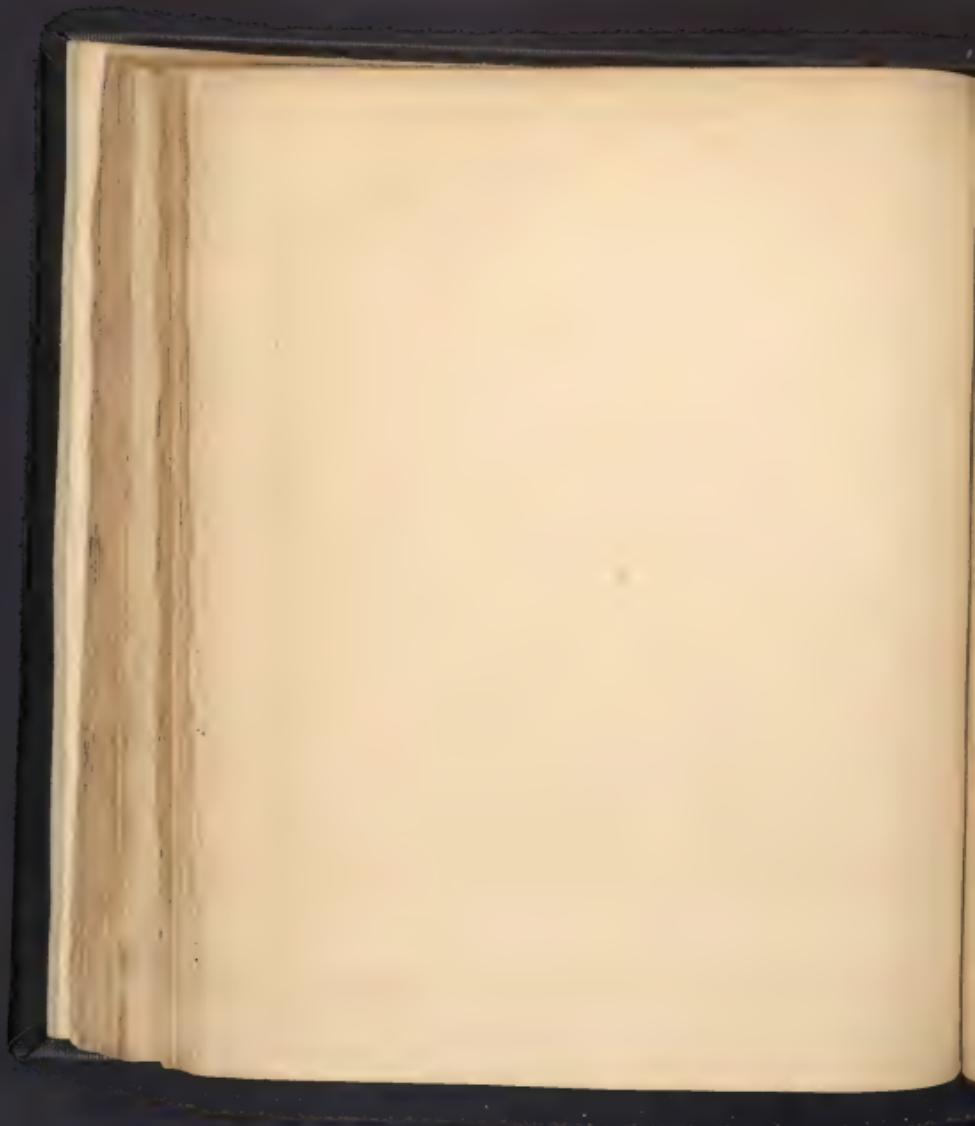


gels under two Heads viz Surgical
& Medical. In the first Mechanical
means chiefly, are employed
as Suppositories, &c. In the second
a multitude of means have been
resorted to, all of which may be
arranged under the heads, Diet,
Cathartics, Tonics, Poyalism, re-
gular efforts to evacuate the bow-
els, & Enemas. These means
when judiciously employed gene-
rally alleviate the sufferings of
the patient. In some cases by
establishing a habit of periodi-
cal evacuation & by strengthen-
ing the bowels they cure this affection.
This symptom however is general-
ly dependent upon & so intimately
connected with some of the
other symptoms of the disease



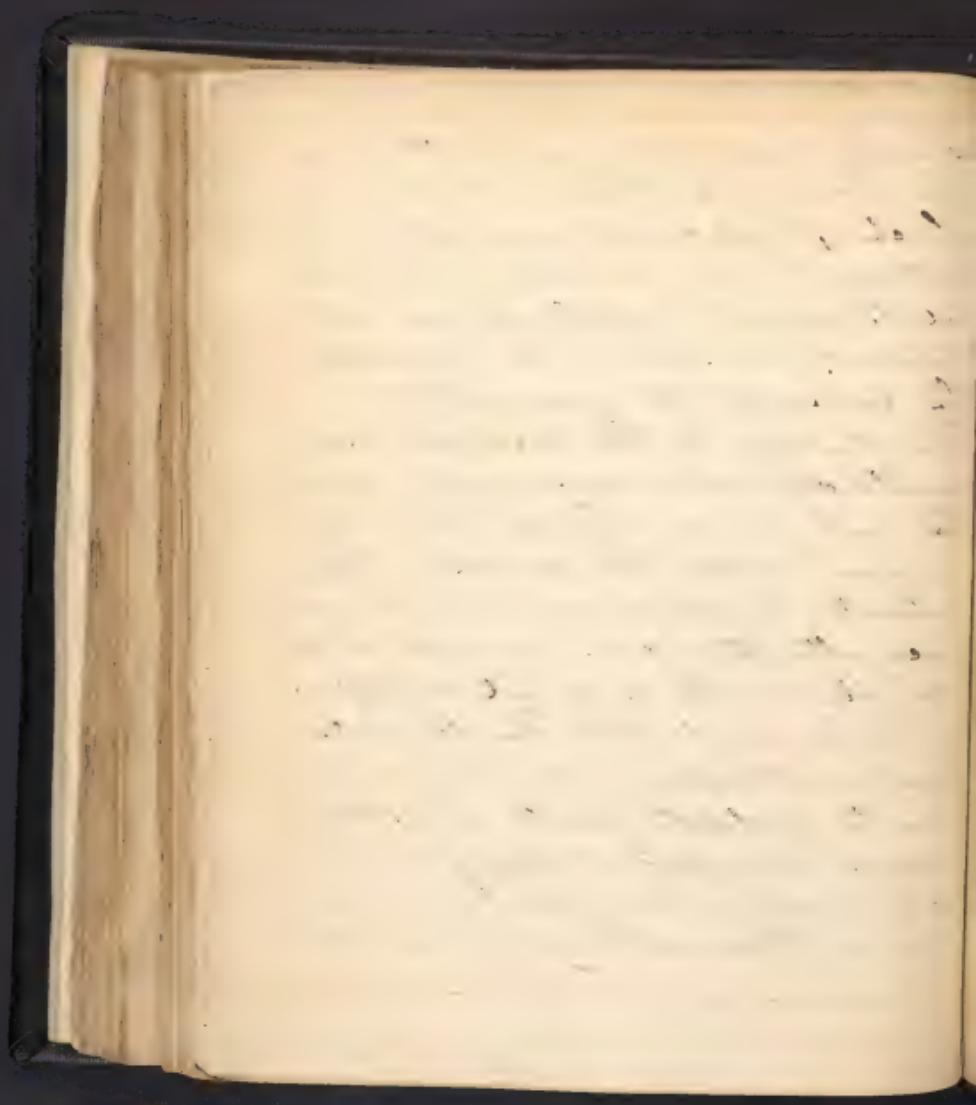
that it can be cured only by the cure
of those symptoms. The agitation of
the body produced by riding on horse
back or by other such means is
so effective in exciting convulsions
as must be considered in human
situations in cases where are
highly medicated. To relieve Restless of Stomach,
Absorbent & Irritative substances
Vinegar (hairy Marmalade) are employed
They operate; the first, by absorbing
the acid; the second by neutralizing it
and the third by invigorating the tone
which thereby gives to the a morbid
or diseased agency. The use of
foods which it causes a agitation
is not very formidable it highly
important in the treatment of
this affection.

The Second or Curative Medication



is considered by many unattainable. The small share of success which Physicians have had in the treatments of this disease is calculated to repress very sanguine expectations but should not induce the belief of its incurability.

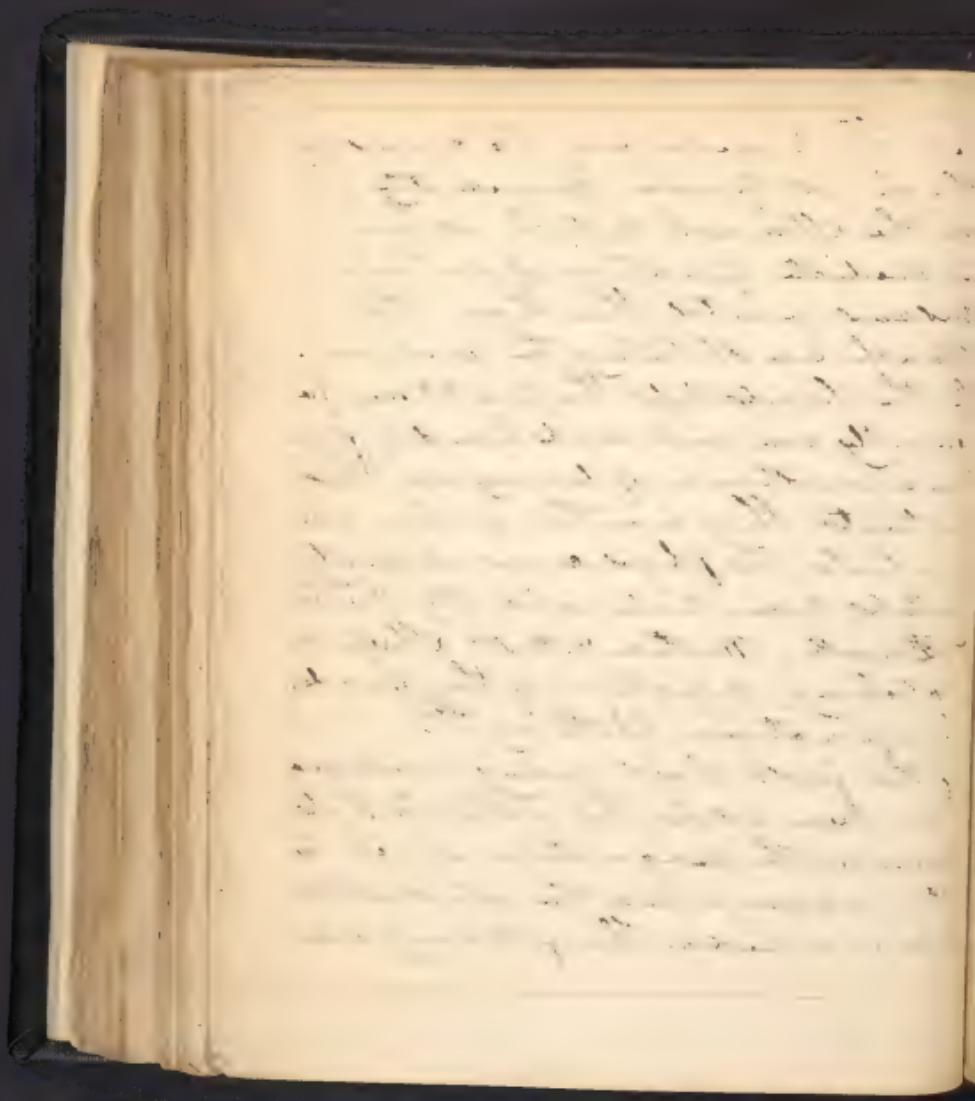
The success of the medical treatments depends very much upon the influence which the physician has over the minds of his patients. His remedies which embrace alterations in long established habits, both of mind & body, are apt to be neglected. He should have persuasive power to give to remote goods so great a predominance over present enjoyments as to make the pain of privation or the existing pain, endue



red. The Remedies are two kinds viz
Such as operate immediately up
on the Stomach or such as have
a Mediate operation upon that
viscus, parts other than the
Stomach constituting the medium.

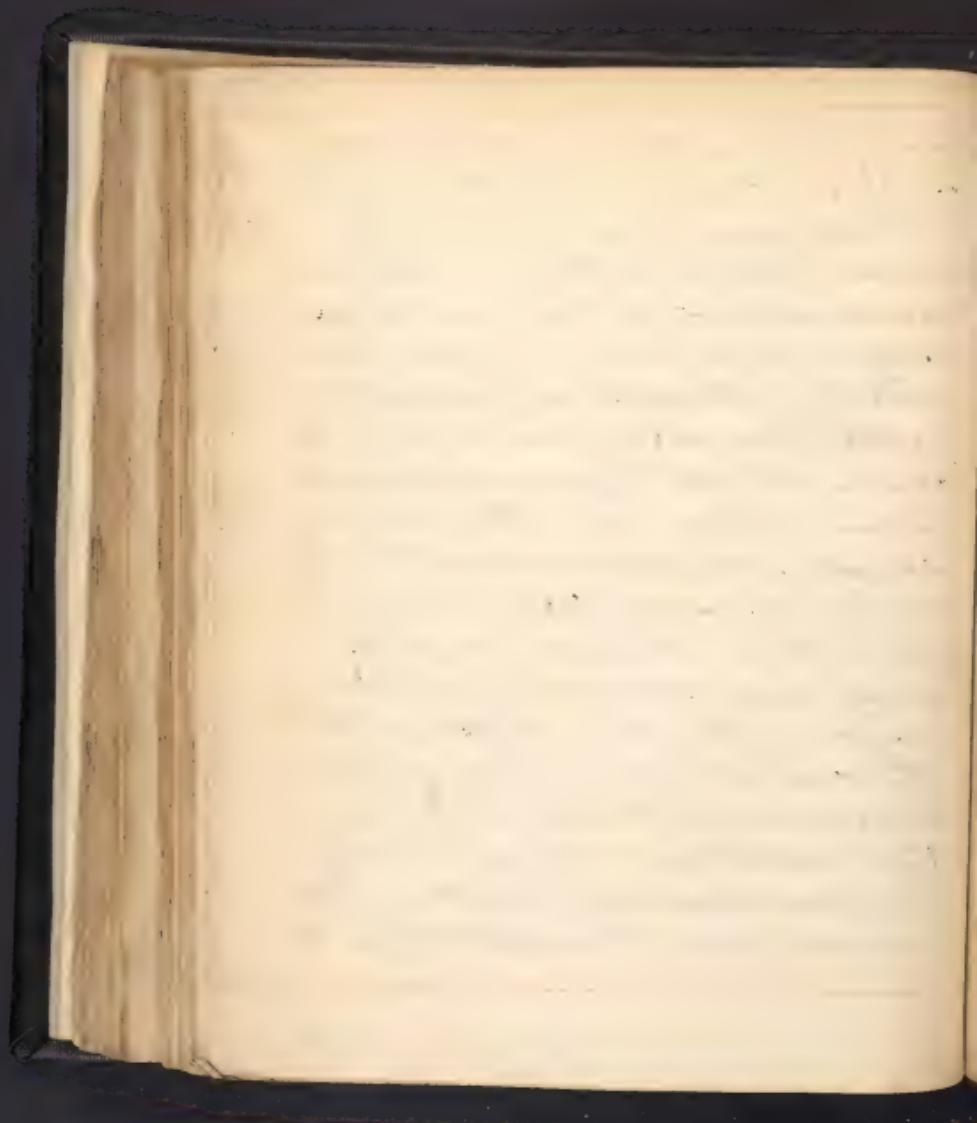
Of the second class the practitioner fa
-quently can not avail himself from
circumstances of living in these
patients. They are the proper use
of what old Physicians absurdly
called, Non-Naturals, viz Meats
& Drink, Motion & Rest, Sleep &
Watching, Affections of the Mind
Temperature, Clothing &c.

Of the first class many Medicines
have been used, tho' without that
main with exaggeration which too
often accompanies the introduction
of new remedies. The following are



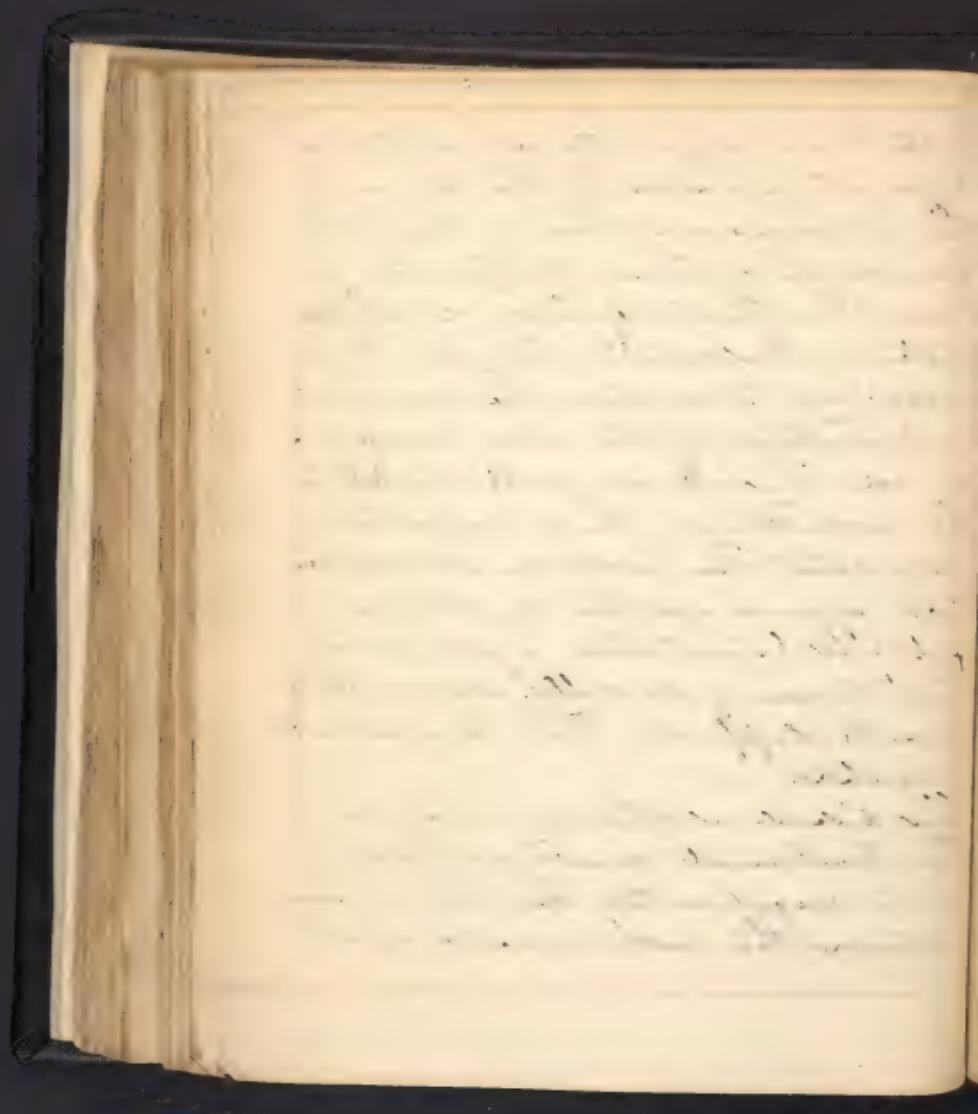
some of the most important: Examples of Specacials as in Tartar Emetics. These are given to remove from the Stomach offensive matter & to supplant diseased actions by their continued specific impressions. To effect these objects they should be frequently repeated. Purgatives are next to be administered. Rhubarb & Magnesia are selected. The latter, in the calcined form, combined with Rhubarb is well adapted to cases in which there is much acidity.

Having promised a sufficient number of the above vacuants, & others which might be prepared. Tonics should be used. They are either Vegetable or Mineral. Of the former, Gentian, Quassia, Hop, Peruvian Bark, Sampson-Snake



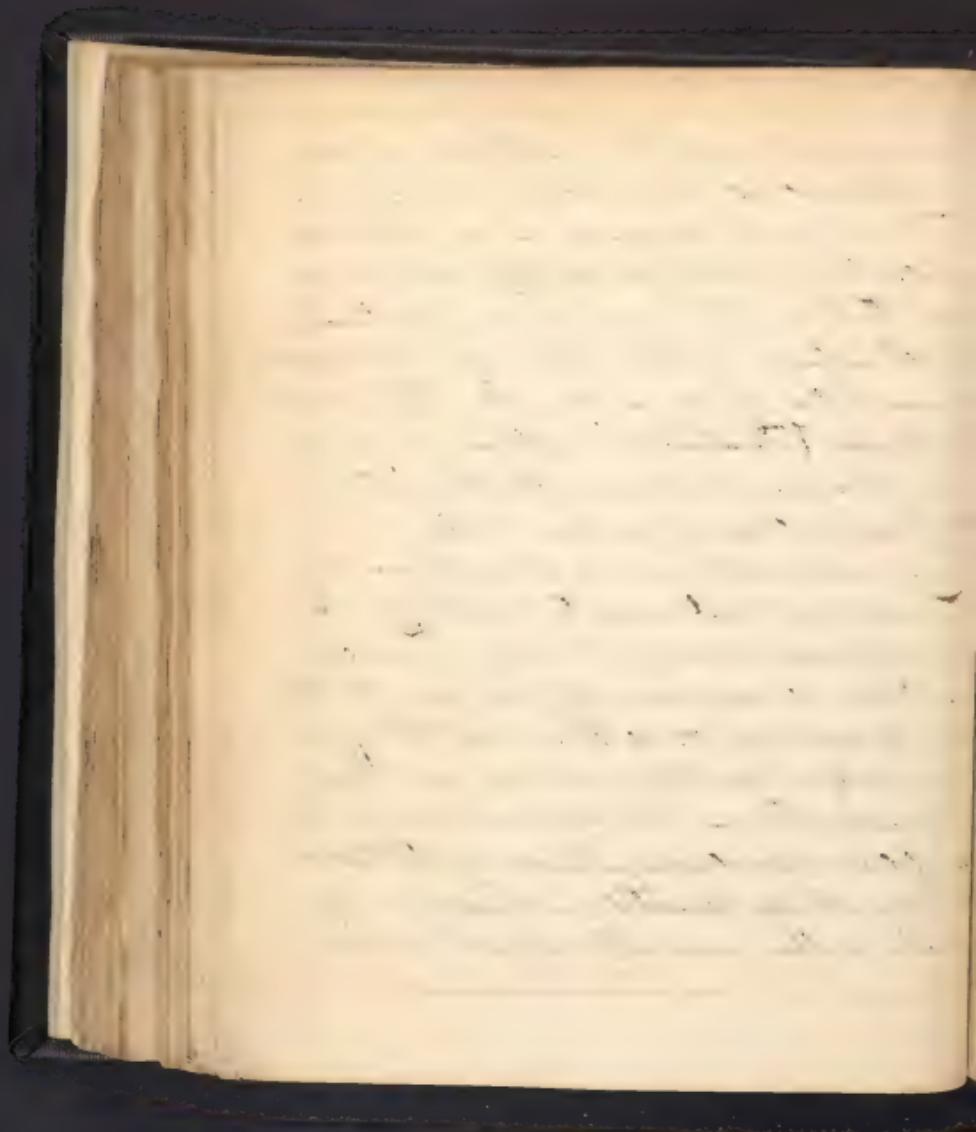
root &c are differently estimated by different persons. Of the Miners also the following are some of the best. Carbonate of Iron, Sulphate of Iron, Phosphate of Iron & Sub-nitrate of Bismuth. I think it unnecessary to mention the various preparations of the above medicines in use. They all are well suited to the case to have their respective advocates. The last mentioned article is perhaps the most powerful. Its reputation has survived the "bloom of novelty," we are therefore to suppose that it was not overrated.

This disease is often very irregular. The treatment must vary to suit such irregularities. In violent Cardialgia, the best remedies are



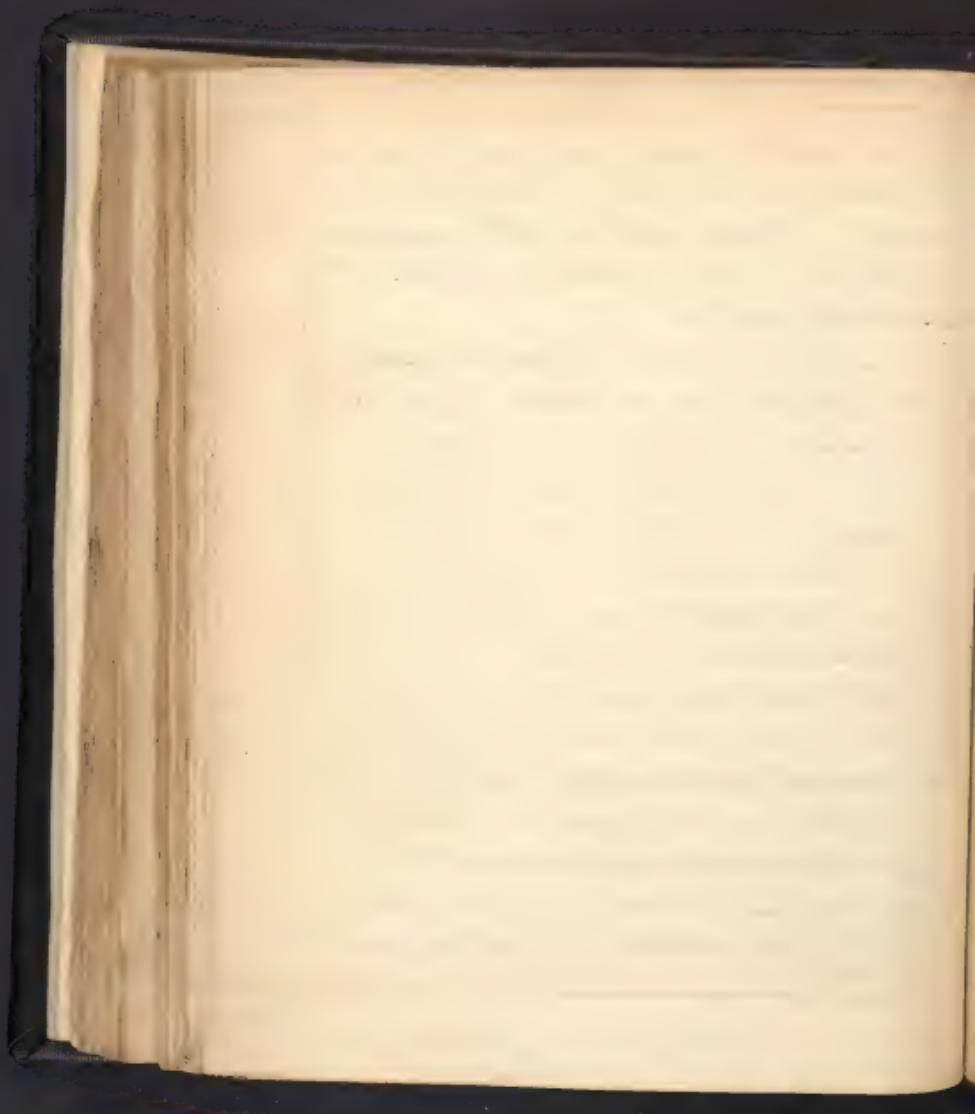
Lime-Water & Milk & Alkaline preparations as the Ashes-Mixture. Violent Gastralgyna is most successfully treated by Anesthetic medicines, as Aether, Opium, Turpentine, distillation of the Stomach by large draughts of New-Milk, Walnuts Cordials, Volatile Tincture of Quinine, Olearum Succini, Bismuth & Sassafras Snake-root.

Very violent Pyrosis sometimes demands a treatment relating almost exclusively to itself. This affection is endemic in very North Country, & is the result of a morbid secretory action in the Stomach. When it is caused by the vicious consumption of Salted & Smoked Meats, a change of diet will generally effect a Cure.



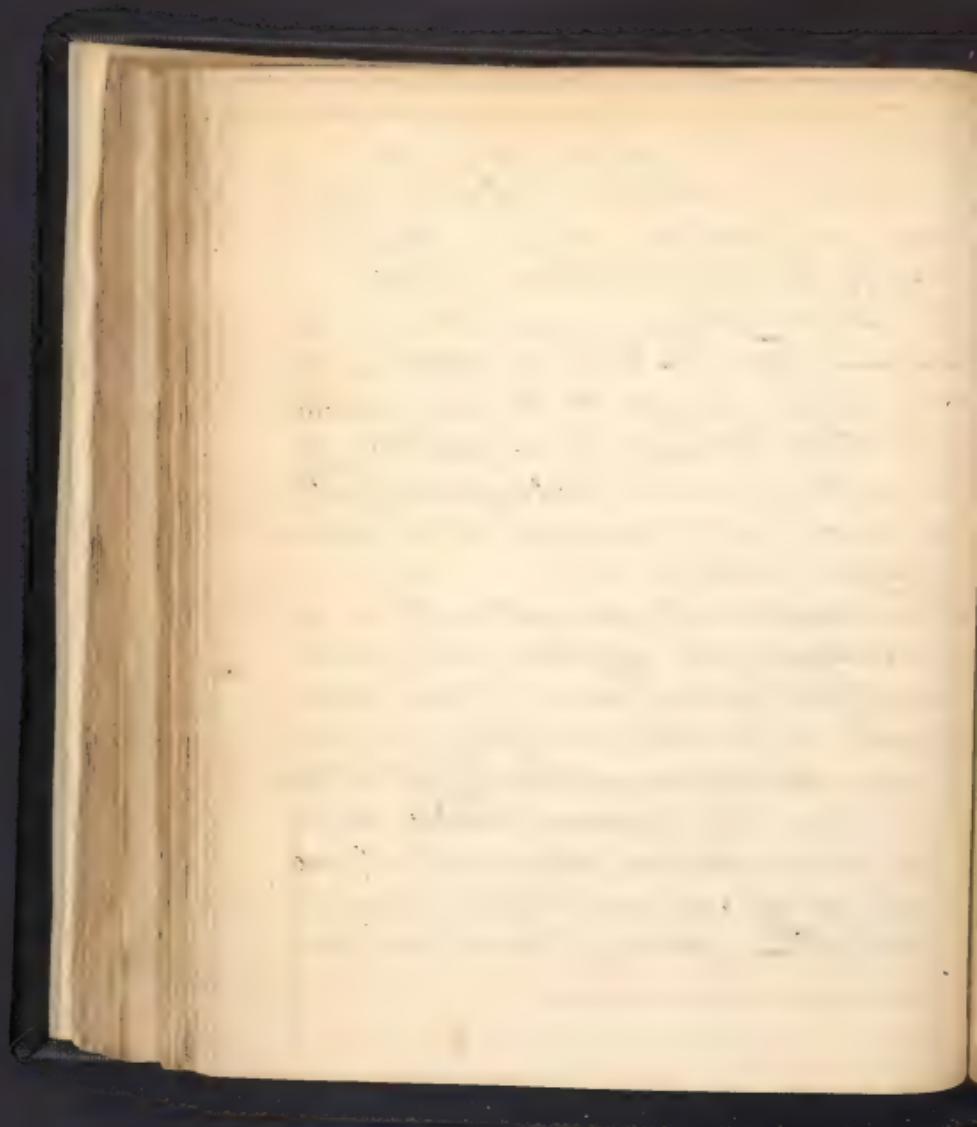
It often visits however where there is no such cause & then is treated by Emetics, Bismuth & other means which are calculated to subvert diseaseds action.

When Dyopspica is continued by habit, - Unctury should be used. It is advised to use four grains of the Blue Pill every Night & on the Succeeding morning - to administer a Milder Laxative. The correlative influence of disease to habit is an interesting subject & will under Strook, be not greatly apiert in the cure of many disease. There is described by Professor Chapman, a variety of Dyopspica which depends upon a slow Specie of chronic Inflammation. It is known by the following Symptoms: A Strong Sensation of Heat & pain

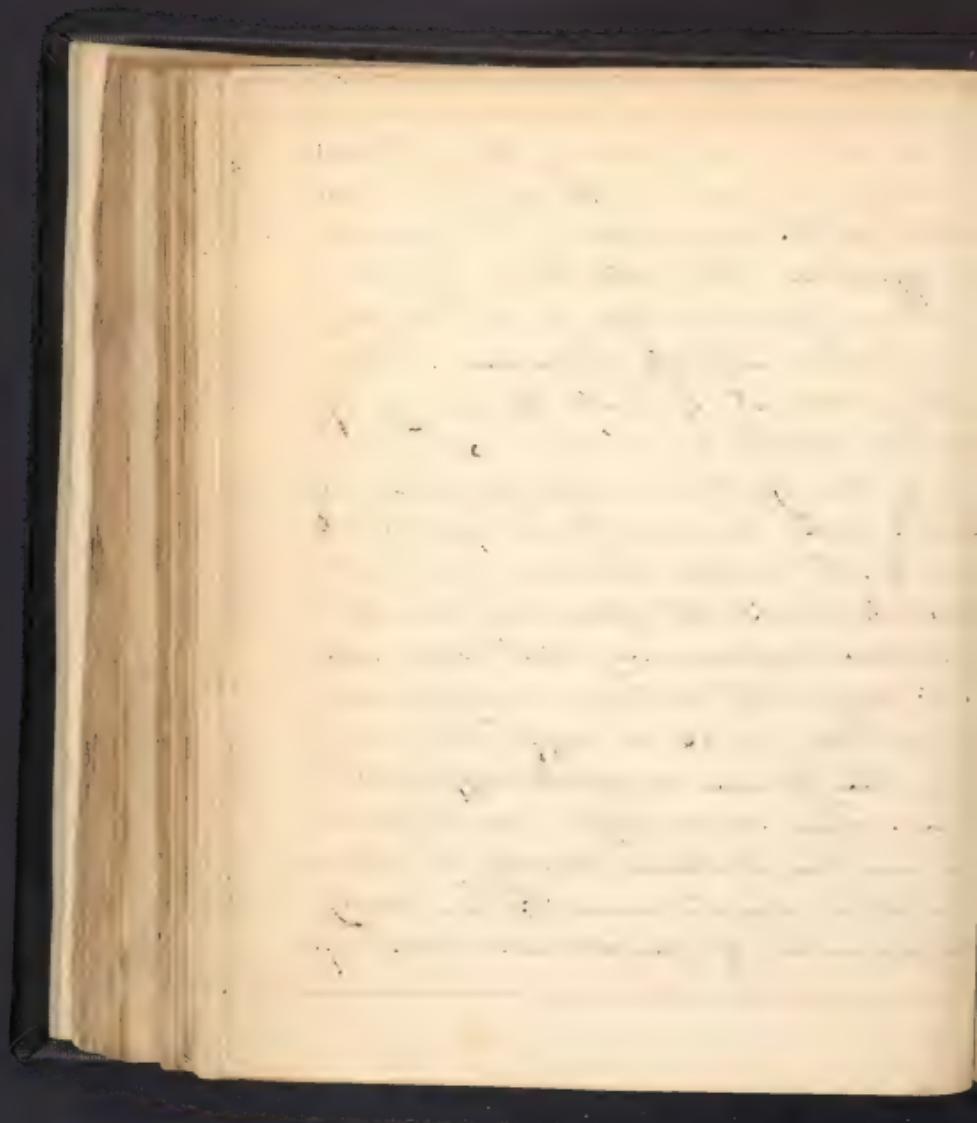


at the pt¹ of the Stomach, a Pulse,
Languor, shortness of breath; Head & Suffer-
ing; a harsh, dry cough; Some wan-
ting of the flesh & skin, &c^{ss}
It has many symptoms which are
common to it to Phthisis; Pulmonary,
to these, one is apt to be confounded
with that disease. It is curable by
frequent, small bleedings & by Ip-
neumon & Mercuries used sepa-
rately as alteratives.

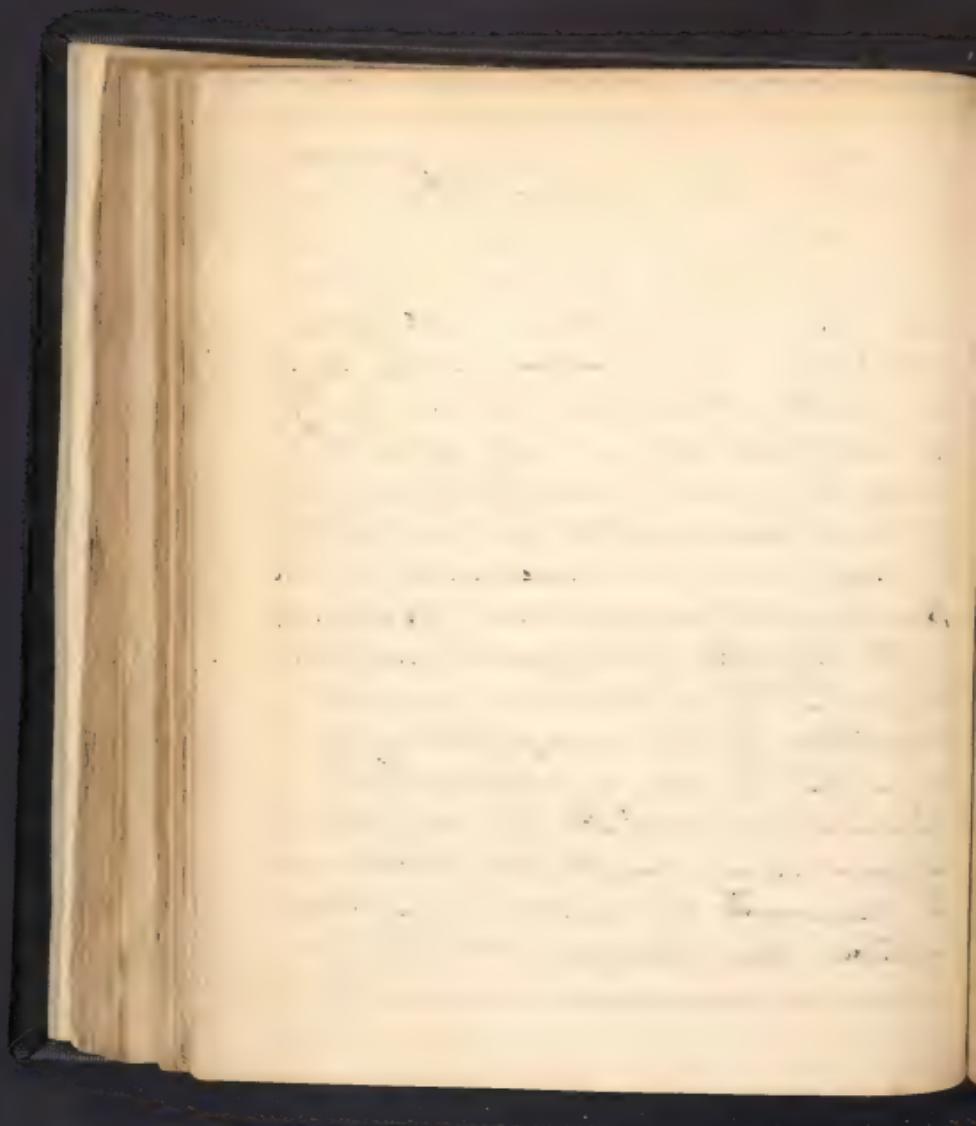
Also occasionally we meet with an tri-
gument dyspeptic affection to be traced
directly to the influence of Opium,
Liquors. It is characterized by extra-
ordinary debility & irritability of the Stom-
ach. Here, the sudden & total abstan-
tion of accustomed Stimuli, should
be carefully avoided. Nourishing
diseases Stimulating Tonics are most



affections. In cases of Symptomatic
Dyspepsias, the prominent Indi-
cation is, the removals of the prima-
ry affection. The alleviation of dis-
tressing Gastric Symptoms, making
a subordinate Indication. The
Nature & Seat of that primary af-
fection & the violence & charac-
ter of the Gastric Symptoms will
point out the most proper treat-
ments. It is now believed, generally
accorded that all particular di-
rections concerning diet are ad-
vised different articles being more
& less congruate in different cases,
& in the same cases at different
times. The wide differences obser-
ved in the dietary precepts of res-
pectable Physicians to the daily
experience of most invalids sup-

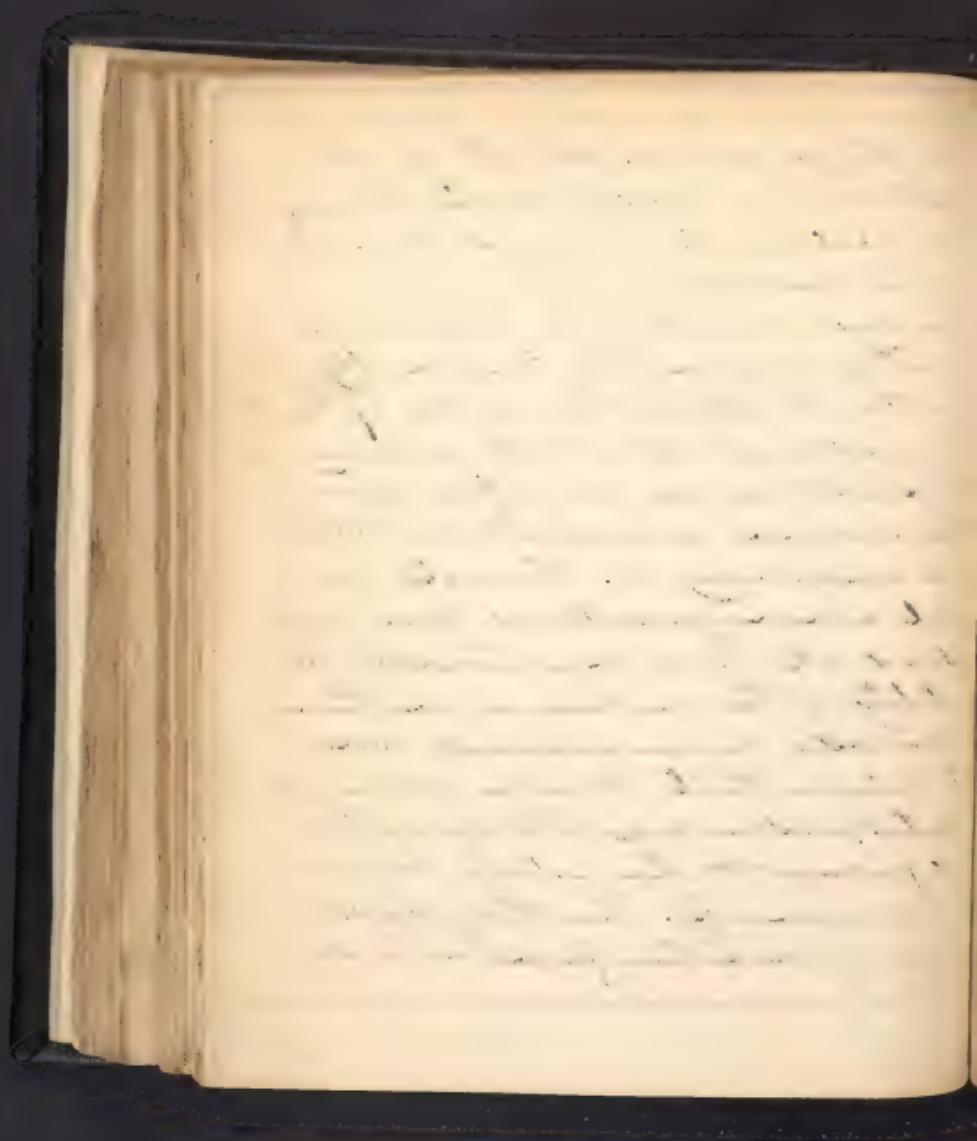


fiocently show the futility of such particular directions. These obser-vations are not meant to destroy the importance of a well regulated diet but to show that personal experience alone, is the proper guide. Perhaps the advice of an eminent physician upon this subject is most worthy of imitation. He directed his patients to keep a written account, in the Banking Style of Debit & Cr. dit, of the effects of different articles. thereby they will soon acquire a knowledge of the adaptation of different kinds of food to their particular cases. The digestive organs being weak should not be required to make greater exertion. On the part both of



the Physician to patient great
patience is indispensable: the pro-
-or treatment to bring as chronic
as the disease.

In my accounts of the treatment
of Dyoppsia I intentionally
omitted to detail the virtues of the
Sampon or Snake-root, wishing
to exhibit in an unbroken view
the evidence which I have obtain-
-ed concerning it. Several Ver-
-bal communications from per-
-sons who have experienced the
utility of the Medicine in their
own cases, have induced me
to believe that it is a powerful
Antispasmodic. Its operation
is prompt to the relief it gives,
permanent. The Subjoined
Copy of a Letter from a Re-

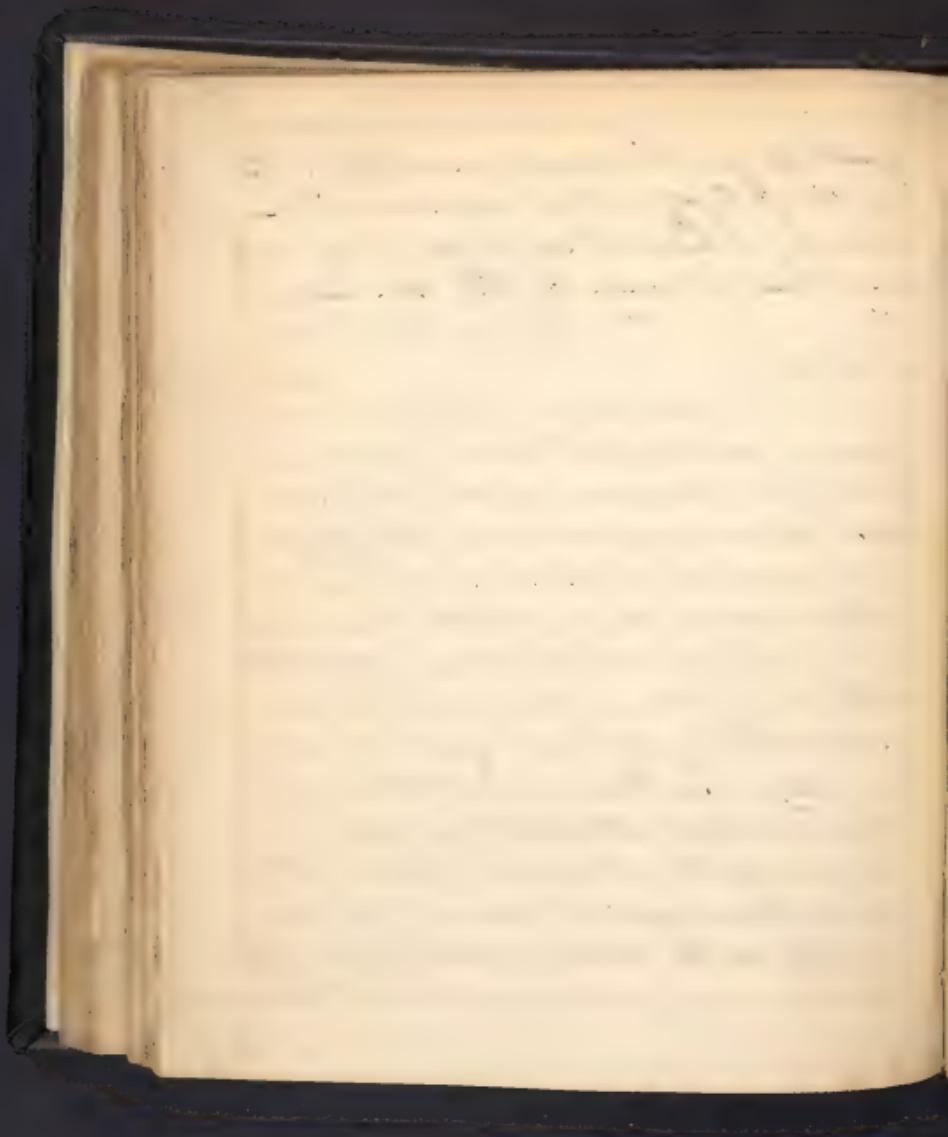


peatedly you the man, contains the
most satisfactory information
which I have - acquired respecting
the efficacy of this medicine.

Charleston Oct 25 1820.

Dear Sir.

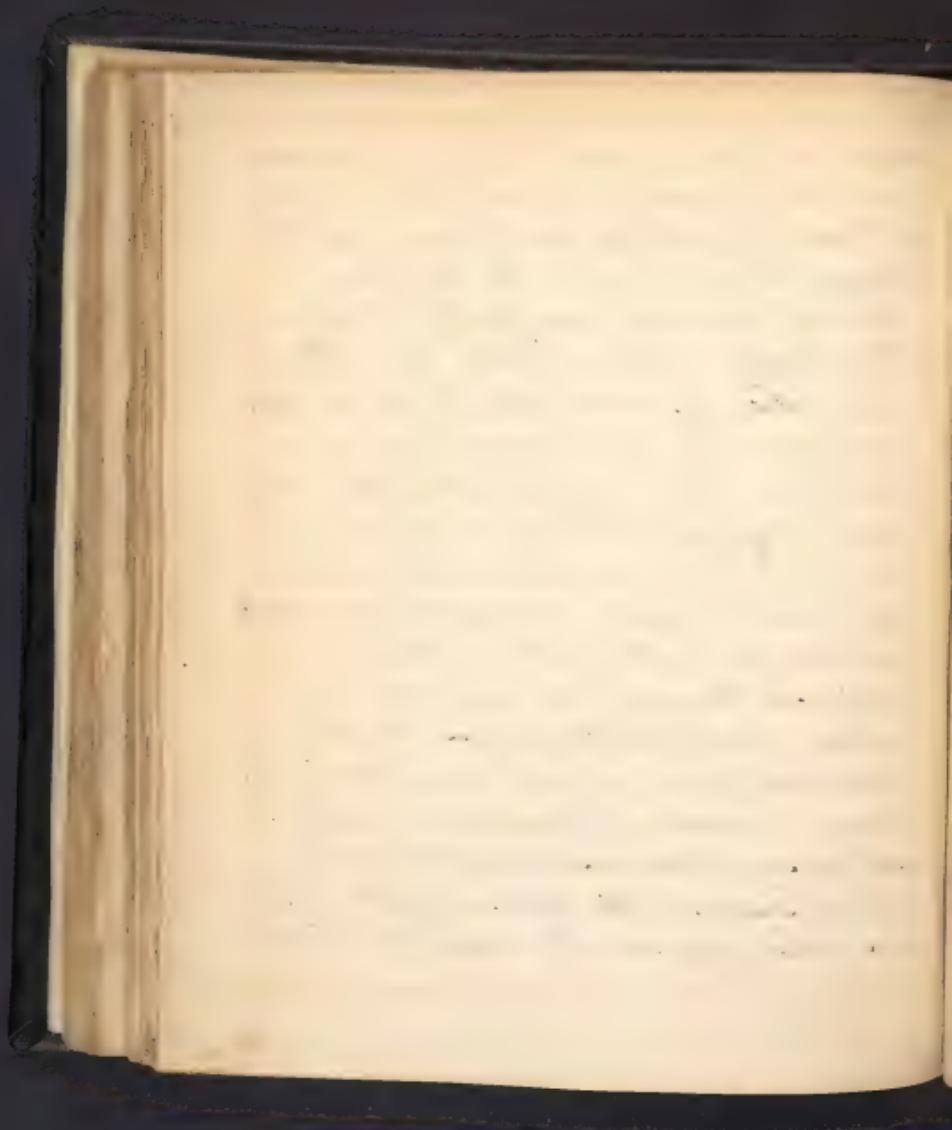
In compliance with your request
to me, in yours of the 16th Inst. respecting the
effect of the Sampson Snake-root and a
description of my own case of Dyspepsia
I will endeavour to describe both as mi-
nutely & correctly as possible. I am now
in my 60th year & have been afflicted
with indigestion for upwards of 30
years - the symptoms of which were
generally, heartburn, acidity & some-
times violent attacks of spasm in
the pit of the Stomach - these latter
symptoms used to occur less fre-
quently in the earlier part of my life



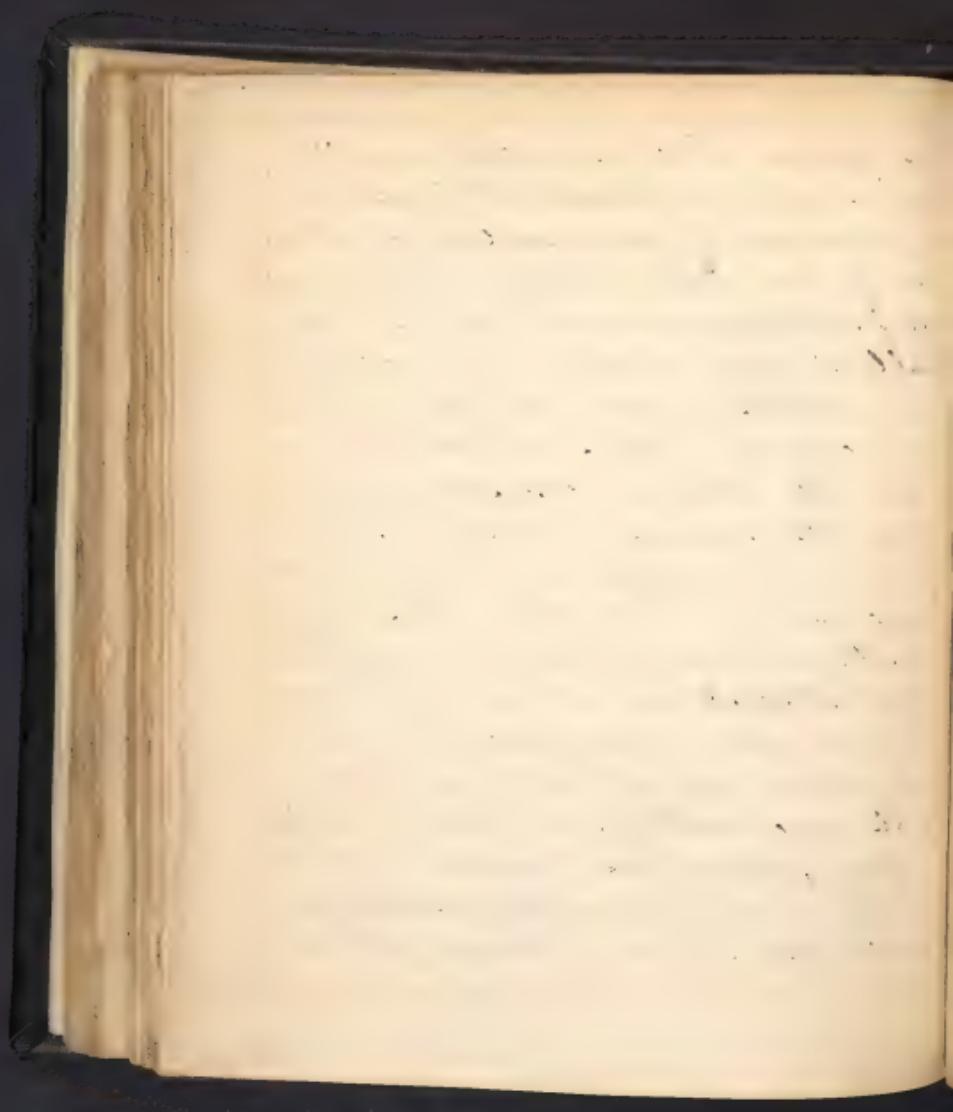
than afterwards - but as the Stomach became more debilitated by every attack and from a want of due caution in abstaining from rich & highly season'd food the Spasms became much more frequent & violent every year - sometimes occurring suddenly without any previous indication, while walking in the streets, and sometimes coming on suddenly before I could get home - these attacks became extremely dangerous to my life often depended on my procuring immediate assistance from a Physician. In the year 1803 I went to Europe where I continued travelling through various countries, until the latter end of the year 1807 when I returned to Charleston. During all that period this dreadful disease continued its attack-



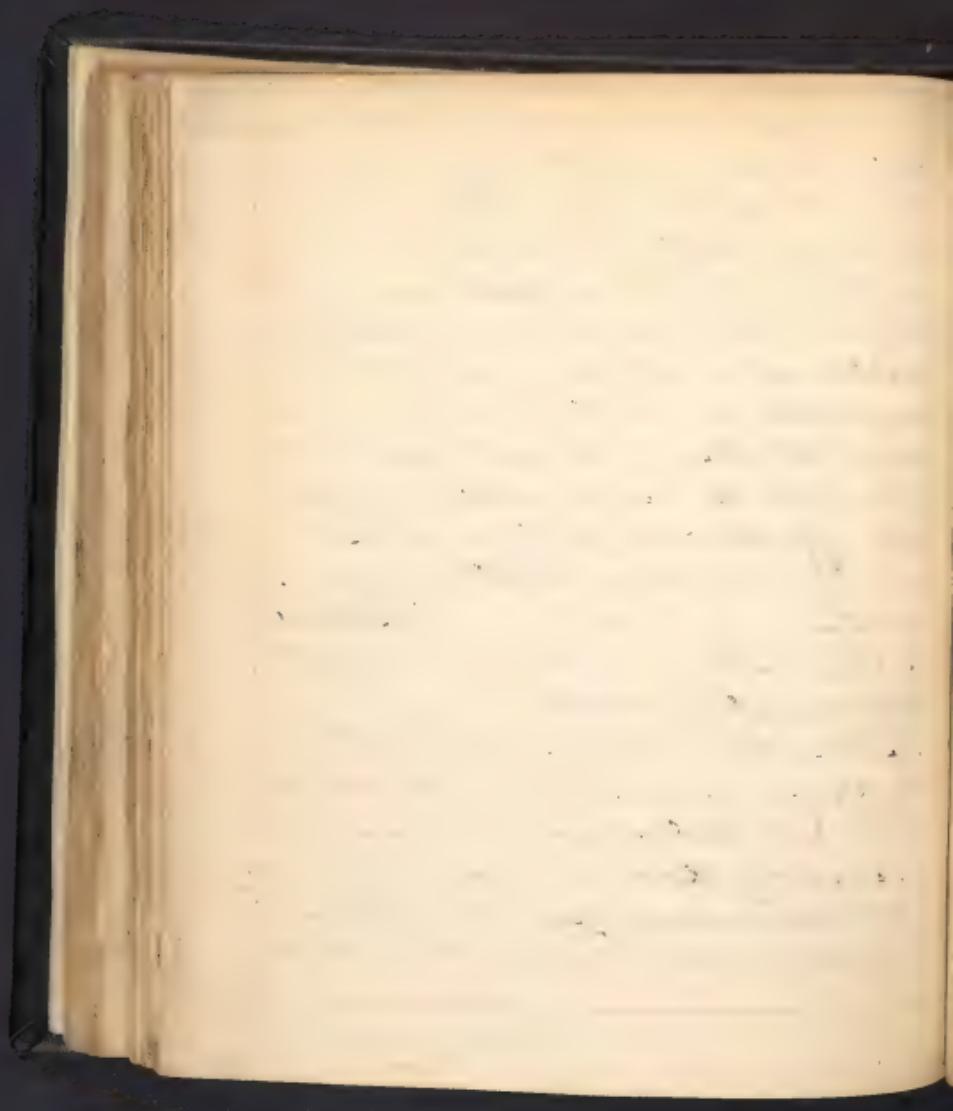
more or less frequent. My life was
in extreme danger from the violence
of these Spasms, in London at the
Plague & in Paris. In the former
place I was attended by Doct- Mat-
thew Bailey, and in both the other
cities also, by celebrated Physicians,
none of whom pretended to do more
than to restore my health, for the
time, alleging, that a radical cure
was not to be expected; but that
my health depended upon my using
caution in eating & drinking on
by such things as my own experi-
ence founds to agree with my
stomach. On my return to Caro-
lina, however, I found in a Friend
and near Connection (D'Archi-
bald Campbell of Beaufort S.C.)
one who appeared confident in



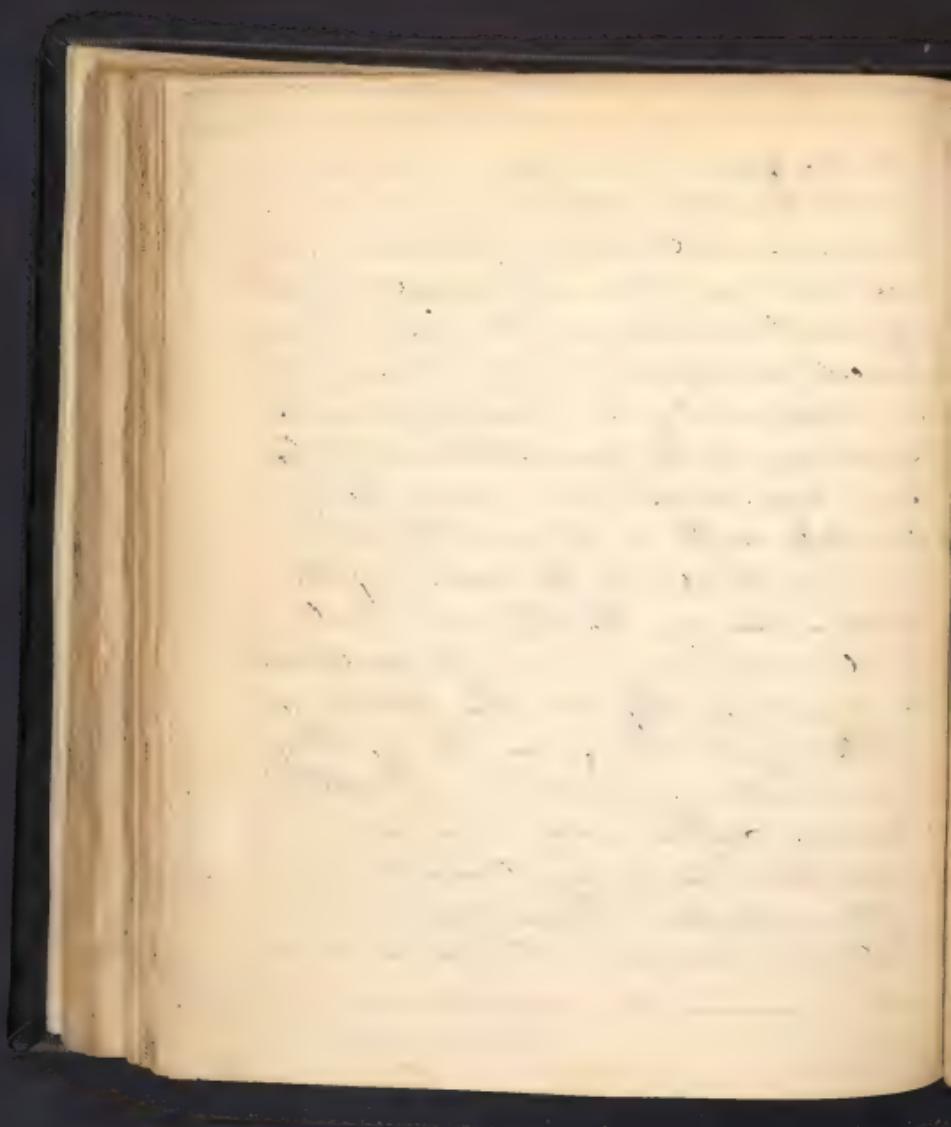
His opinion, that he could radically
cure my complaints, at least for
a number of years - and this by the
use of Sassafras in the Root-a reme-
dy for Dyspepsia which he had
hately discovered. On my visiting
him at Beaufort just after my re-
covery from a severe attack, I com-
menced taking his Medicine, a
quantity of which he kept by him,
finding it very efficacious in almost
every case of indigestion. The ingre-
dients were, mostly, an Ounce of the
root steeped in a Pint of Brandy.
The manner of my taking it was
as follows. On a half hour before
I ate my breakfast I took a Table
spoon full of the tincture mixed
in the same quantity of Water and
a small lump of Sugar. This



done I again repeated one hour before dinner & continued to take the same ~~was~~ ~~day~~ regularly & without intermission, for two days, during which time my diet was plain to my meals rather slender. The Doct^r then informed me that it was unnecessary to take it longer than that time & that he conceived my cure to be effected so that I might eat what I pleased without danger of a return of the Spasm. I returned to Charlestown a short time after and completely tested the efficacy of the Snake roots by gradually indulging in whatever my appetite relished - partaking of the richest foods & in fact living as if I had never been troubled with Dystenia. This continued for



about six years: Other experienced the
same attack, some of them very violent.
Having recovered however, by the aid of a
Physician; as soon as I gained strength
sufficient to take an oil I again com-
menced a course of the tincture for
ten days as before. This was in the
beginning of the year 1815, nearly six
years ago, and I have never been
attacked with it since. I forgot to
mention that I took some of the
tincture during the attack but
found no relief from it, and was
advised to postpone the taking of
it till I got better from the effects of
other kinds of medicine. (Purgative)
I did so & after using it as above,
found the tone of my Stomach pro-
perty restored. I therefore think
that the Stomach should be prepa-



redd previously to a course of the tinc-
ture, by a dose or two of Magnesia
or Rhenubarb. The great benefit I ex-
perienced from it was taking it
just after a good deal of medicine
taken in my illness. I have relieved
many persons, with this remedy &
restored them to health when they
have been worn down to quite ina-
giated by protracted indigestion.
If the foregoing observations can
be of any service to you it will
give me great pleasure that
I have had it in my power to
contribute my trifling assistance
and you have my sincere wishes
for your complete success in the
undertaking you propose, and am
Dear Sir Your Ob. Servt.

Wm Bristow.

A review of what I have written excites a wish that I had time to shorten some & to lengthen other parts.

